



*Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars*



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101-1126

405 850-0815/ www.vfwoklahoma.org



January 2022

2021-2022 Series

“All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty mercy, hope.”

Winston Churchill



**DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA HEADQUARTERS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders No. 07

2021-2022 Series

1. Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies. The attention of District and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103 of the Manual of Procedures, which prescribes the manner in which applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstated or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting.

2. Commanders on all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National Bylaws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

3. Notice to Commanders and Adjutants: All Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year Reports MUST be submitted via the All-American Dashboard. Post Adjutants must enter their Posts' report. District Adjutants must approve Post Reports and enter the District Report. Contact Department Adjutant Curt Watts for information and/or questions.

4. Notice to All: I wanted to make sure you are aware that News 9 is giving away a complete HVAC system to a veteran in need. A worthy veteran can be nominated at the following link: news9.com/veteran.

5. Department Directory/Roster: Department Directory has been updated to reflect new State Officers. The updated directory can be found in the “members only” section of the Department website at vfwhqoklahoma@outlook.com

6. Trustee’s Report of Audit: Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, “Duty of Trustees.” Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends Dec 31 2021. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all person handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Riders Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant.

Posts & Districts are reminded to forward their Trustees’ reports at the end of each quarter of the current year: June 30th, Sep 30th, Dec 31st and March 31st. Send these audit reports to VFW-OK, P.O. Box 1126, Oklahoma City, OK 73101 or email to vfwhqokqm@outlook.com

7. Commanders at all levels should begin organizing their 2022 Memorial Day “Buddy Poppy Campaign. Every Post is urged to order and distribute VFW “Buddy” Poppies.

8. Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.

/os/

JAMES BASSETT
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /

Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

Commander Jim Bassett

Oklahoma is 10th out of 14 Departments within the Southern Conference.
Oklahoma is 43rd out of 52 Departments within the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
As of 10 December 2021



Happy New Year! I hope everyone has a Happy New Year and keeps their resolutions. Our next event is our Mid Winter conference which will be held February 18 to 20. Again it will be at the Embassy Suites. I look forward to seeing you there.

I'm still hearing about events that posts or districts are holding that we may have been able to help with. We need to be proactive in our communications of events that the department could have helped. If your post or district is going to host or participate in a major event, please let the department know. We do have vendors that may help your event. We cannot ask them if we do not know about

them. Please help the department get word out.

National has developed a New and Reinstated Membership Grant initiative for VFW Posts. Starting January 1, 2022, every VFW Post that signs up and submits full membership dues for each member will receive a grant based on the type of membership submitted while funds are available. Recruiting versus retention. If we retain our members, then we have cut the numbers to recruit in half. Let's make it easy on ourselves. What are you doing to keep your members?

My class of commanders has created a perpetual Voice of Democracy scholarship. Currently it is only a \$2,000 to the recipient. The more money donated to the scholarship, the more can be awarded to the recipient. To donate to this worthy cause, you can send the money to our department to be collected as a total donation from the department or you can send your donation to:

Class 122 VOD Scholarship
James Lierz
VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816.756.3390

The donation window will permanently close June 30th, 2022.

We have multiple investigations or enquiries going on. Please let the processes continue to their conclusions. Please don't talk about them, spread rumors or speculation about the proceedings. Spreading lies or misinformation only complicates the process and contaminates the body pool if we need take something to an Article 9 hearing. We meet to "*transact business of mutual benefit. Do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations. Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization and to the government of the United States of America.*" Please, let us not forget that.

With the rise Omicron, I want everyone to take the precautions that they feel they need to do to stay healthy. Be it wearing a mask, social distancing, or taking the vaccine. Do whatever you feel is best for your health and your family. This can be a depressing time of year for many, keep an eye out and check with people. Buddy Checks. Stay healthy, stay on top of deadlines, but mostly, remember to have fun. We have many wonderful opportunities out there; we just need to capitalize on them.

Jim Bassett

State Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
P. O. Box 1126
Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73101
405.664.3929

Bassettj15@yahoo.com

<https://vfwoklahoma.org/>

While others talk...do.

While others fear...believe.

While others wait...work.

Senior Vice Commander Jeremy Owen

Happy New Year Comrades! I hope we all had a great Christmas and were able to spend our holidays healthy. Comrades we are halfway through this year and really have to keep pushing. Our membership numbers are down but we can get there as long as we're actively recruiting and working our annual members. Retention is our lowest percentage right now and we really need to increase that percentage. As of Dec 31, we have 3 posts at 100% or over with a bunch over 90%. Let's finish this year strong TEAM OKLAHOMA! On a different note, I know how trying the last few months have been for a lot of our comrades, a quick phone call can help someone head back in the right direction. If you need someone to talk to, my phone is always on, no matter what time it is. Check on our auxiliary brothers and sisters also. What I want to make sure of, is we can try to help and not lose another comrade, brother, or sister again. I am currently trying to fill next year's appointments, if you feel you or someone you know in this organization would be a good fit just let me know. Mid-Winter conference is quickly approaching, make sure to get your reservations soon. We hope the training you will receive will be phenomenal. District meetings are also soon upon us, and I hope to see many of you as I travel these next couple of months. Let's head into this new year healthy and ready to get things done!

Have you thought about supporting our very own Oklahoma VFW Foundation? There are several ways to do it: Amazon smile is a great way. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com> once there then find Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation. Post donations & personal donations are another great way to support our Foundation. Donations are tax deductible. Donating to the Oklahoma VFW Foundation is a way of donating back to Posts within our department and our programs. Donors may also designate where they want their donation dollars to go toward, for instance, Veterans Services, Honor Guards, etc. Donations can be sent to Oklahoma VFW Foundation, [P.O. Box 1126, Oklahoma City, OK](mailto:okvfwfoundation.org) or by visiting the Foundation website at <https://okvfwfoundation.org> and the selecting the donate button.



Jeremy Owen
State Senior Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma

State Adjutant/Quartermaster

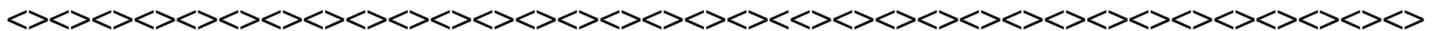
Curt Watts

Department Parliamentarian (RP)

ADJUTANTS: Please note that Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year reports will need to be submitted into the All-American Dashboard via the Online Membership System (OMS) access. Post Adjutants will submit their reports using the AA Dashboard. District Adjutants will approve and/or edit the Post reports. District Adjutants will submit the district’s reports and the Department Adjutant will approve then wait for National approval. This system is a great tool, and we need to utilize it to our fullest extent.

Assistant Department Adjutant/Quartermaster: Comrades, I would like to tell you that Comrade Andrea Melcher from Glenpool Post 9126 has agreed to be the Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster for the remainder of the 2021-2022 year. She is currently serving as Glenpool Post 9126 Adjutant/Quartermaster. Andrea’s email is atherrien83@gmail.com She will be at our Mid-Winter Conference helping perform some of the duties within the department that State Commander Jim Bassett has tasked her to perform. Therefore, when you see or hear from her, please understand she is working as well on behalf of the department. Please don’t hesitate to introduce yourself and say hey.

ALL: If you are planning on attending the Mid-Winter Banquet, please see the enclosed or the attached Mid-Winter Banquet Announcement and Ticket Information. You must choose between either the chicken dish or the pork dish when purchasing your tickets. We hope you will join us for an evening of comradeship and recognition of our awardees.



National Council Member

Curt Watts

Comrades, I hope all of you had a peaceful and blessed holiday season filled with joy, laughter, and fun with family and friends. While we use the Holiday Season to always count our blessing and remember those less fortunate than us, we can also use it as a time to reflect on the past while building on the future with renewed resolutions, promises, and determination. As your National Council Member, it is my goal and desire to always represent you, speak out for you, and do what we believe is best for the VFW Department of Oklahoma within our National organization.

I wanted to inform you of a few things on the National level.

Teacher of the Year Program & Recognition at the National Convention:

At our National Convention, the VFW has traditionally honored three teachers, one from each category. The Teacher of the Year Program has, three categories, Kindergarten thru 5th grade, sixth thru eighth grade, and ninth thru twelfth grade. Departments throughout the organization submit an entry for each category if they so desire, then a winner from each category would receive a trip to our national convention and thereby be recognized with money for themselves and their school. However, this year, only one teacher among all three categories will be recognized. Departments are required to send only one teacher's packet forward for the "VFW Teacher of the Year" to meet the requirement for All-American. While all understand the All-American Program and its requirements belong to the Commander-in-Chief, VFW programs belong to the membership.

Therefore, National Council Member Larry Gerlt from Nebraska is pushing to have all three categories recognized at future National Conventions with each winner receiving \$2,000, \$1,000 for themselves, and \$1,000 for their school plus compensation for their travel to the National Convention. I support Comrade Gerlt's proposal to recognize a teacher from all three categories and push that funding for this program's additional cost be added to our national budget. Additionally, I have asked you and other members within our department your thoughts and so far, responses have been positive to the suggestion as described above. However, as your representative, I will support and vote how our department membership desires. I will seek further opinions from our membership during our Mid-Winter Conference before any vote by the National Council of Administration is conducted.

Quartermaster General Debra Anderson has provided a final draft of the National VFW's IRS 990 to the Council of Administration. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the VFW's IRS 990 for FY 2020, please let me know and I will forward it to you.

Quartermaster General Debra Anderson has provided a copy of the first quarter operations for the VFW 21-22 Fiscal year. She stated that "while fiscal Year 2020-21 provided stellar market returns, there has been more volatility, and some pull back in the market to start this fiscal year. Our General Fund Reserve investment ended the first quarter with market losses of just under \$1.5 million, and so far, December has provided more losses. We continue to meet with our investment consultants and managers and follow our investment policy statements to help minimize the overall risk to our portfolios." She also stated that "Through the first quarter, most operations appear to be on track with the budget, but there are a couple of larger items that will have an overall impact on the operating results for the year.

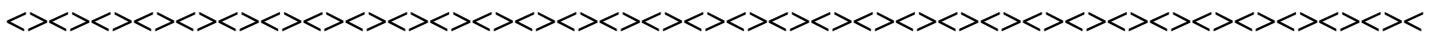
1.) **Salary & Benefits** The VFW has continued to review staffing and has consolidated or eliminated positions when possible. The VFW has gone from 216 budgeted positions in 2019-20 to 202 budgeted positions for 2021-22. In addition, there have been several

*Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen & Teacher of the Year Chairman
Mike Devenitch*

VFW YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS: We are working to get state judging done this week. Thanks for your post's hard work! I will be looking for a list of all posts and auxiliary that participated from each district. For the 2021-2022: **Voice of Democracy (VOD)** audio-essay program theme is - **"America: Where do we go from here?"** and the **Patriot's Pen (PP)** youth essay – **"How Can I Be a Good American?"** The trip for students to Washington, D.C. will be virtual again this year due to the virus but awards will still be full scale. State judging will be held at the Moore Public Library, (Meeting Rm 1 & 2), 225 S. Howard Ave, Moore, OK on the evening of Thursday, January 6th, 2022. Please contact me if you plan on attending this event to reserve a seat and event time. See <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships> for more info.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR (ToY) EXTENDED UNTIL JAN 7th: Please give me a heads up on email/phone if you are planning a new teacher submission. They have changed the guidelines to only one winner this year. A teacher who teaches citizenship education topics and promote America's history and traditions are great candidates for this award. Submit all nomination to me. See <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year> for more info.

VOD/PP/ToY CONTACT: Michael H. Devenitch, (405) 819-9914. 4224 Manhattan Dr. Moore, OK, 73160 sentrymike@yahoo.com



*Veterans and Military Services Committee Chair
Tony McGrew*

Hello Comrades,
VMS Programs are an integral part of the VFW's never-ending obligation to assist members of the active-duty military, national Guard and Reserves, as well as their families. VMS is broken down into 3 distinct stand-alone programs.



- Unmet Needs
- Military Assistance Program (MAP)
- VFW "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" program

- * Unmet Needs provides financial assistance to service members, veterans, and their families experiencing a financial hardship directly related to their military service.
- * Assistance, not a handout.
- * The financial assistance is in the form of a one-time grant in an amount up to \$2,500. All grants are paid directly to the “creditor” companies (such as the electric company, mortgage company, landlord, etc.) and not to the individual.
- * Funds can be used for rent, car repairs, medical expenses, infant-care items and many other necessities.
- * Each case is reviewed individually, and acceptance determined by a committee.
- * Applied for online at: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>

We were very busy in the months of November and December. We had several Posts take up the Banner and provide services for the Army and Air Guard Units in and around the state.

- 1st, The Midwest City Post completed a MAP Grant to provide food for the Tinker Family Services Annual Golf Tournament.
- 2nd, The Del City Post provided funds for the 552nd Air Control Wing (ACW) Promotion Party on Tinker AFB.
- 3rd, The Midwest City Post provided cookies for the 552nd ACW Children’s Christmas Party.
- 4th, The Edmond Post completed a MAP Grant to provide food for Company C of the 179th Infantry Division’s Christmas Dinner in Edmond.
- 5th, The Enid Post completed a MAP Grant and provided for Company B of the 179th Infantry Division’s Christmas Dinner at Vance AFB.
- 6th, The El Reno Post Auxiliary completed a MAP Grant and provided food for Company A of the 179th Infantry Division’s Christmas Dinner in El Reno.

Kudos to these Posts and Auxiliary since the MAP Grants did not cover the complete costs of these events. The Posts and Auxiliary made up the difference.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

TBD

All for One; One for All
 Tony McGrew
 State VMS Chair
 District 10 Commander
 Department of Oklahoma
 405-820-6467
Tony.vfw8706@gmail.com
<https://www.vfwoklahoma.org>

We're glad you can join us for the February meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars!

We have a room block reserved at Embassy Suites by Hilton Norman Hotel & Conference Center for February 18, 2022 through February 20, 2022. Booking your room is simple, just select "Book a Room" from the link provided below to receive your group's preferred rate.

We're looking forward to seeing you in February! We hope you enjoy your stay and your group's event!

Book Your Room

Event Dates: February 18, 2022 - February 20, 2022

Book by: January 29, 2022

You may call the hotel to make reservations at 405-364-8040 or use the link below which is the preferred method:

2 Room Suite -1 King Bed-nonsmoking – \$99.00

2 Room Suite -2 Queen Beds-nonsmoking - \$99.00

Group Web Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/vfwstatemeetingfebruary2022/>

Questions?

Contact:

Curt Watts

Adjutant/Quartermaster

VFW Dept. of Oklahoma

vfwhgokqm@outlook.com

405.590.8577

**DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA MID-WINTER
CONFERENCE 2022 BANQUET TICKETS NOW ON
SALE!!!!**

**BANQUET WILL BE HELD 6:30PM, SATURDAY 19
FEBRUARY 2022**

MENU:

- FRIED HERB CHICKEN W/GRAVY, WHIPPED POTATOES & GREEN BEANS
- **OR**
- GRILLED PORK CHOP W/GRAVY, WHIPPED POTATOES & GREEN BEANS

ABOVE CHOICES TO BE SERVED WITH CHEF'S CHOICE SALAD & DESSERT, WATER, ICED TEA & COFFEE

PLEASE NOTE YOUR CHOICE OF MEAT ON YOUR TICKET ORDER!

**TICKETS ARE \$39.00 EACH AND CAN BE PAID BY CHECK,
CREDIT CARD OR BY PAYPAL INVOICE TO VFW-OKLAHOMA,
ATTN: QM CURT WATTS@ VFWHQOKQM@OUTLOOK.COM OR
VFWHQOKLAHOMA@OUTLOOK.COM OR (405) 590-8577 OR
(405) 850-0815**

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO CONFERENCE!

(DEADLINE FOR TICKET PURCHASES ARE CLOSE OF BUSINESS MONDAY, 14 FEB 2022.)

NOTES: A SMALL PROCESSING FEE WILL BE APPLIED FOR CREDIT CARD & PAYPAL INVOICE PAYMENTS. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THIS INCONVENIENCE

VFW OKLAHOMA MID-WINTER 2022 CONFERENCE BANQUET TICKET PURCHASE

As the Oklahoma VFW & VFW Auxiliary prepares for our Annual Mid-Winter Conference in February 2022, we ask for your support by participating in our Mid-Winter Conference Banquet which will be held on Saturday 19 February 2020 at 6:30 pm. The Embassy Suites Norman Hotel will be providing us a meal. It will be a great time as we honor our Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year recipients and hear our National Officer representatives speak to us all.

PRE-PURCHASE BANQUET TICKETS: Banquet tickets are \$39.00 each. Deadline for ticket purchases is close of business Monday, 14 Feb 2020. If you have any questions please feel free to call Curt Watts, Department Adj/QM, at (405) 590-8577 or Department Admin at (405) 850-0815.

Please forward all ticket requests to vfwhqoklahoma@outlook.com or vfwhqokqm@outlook.com or mail to:

VFW Department of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1126
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Please complete the following page and mail with your payment or let us know and we can invoice you directly via PayPal where you can pay with Credit/Debit Card or with a PayPal Account.

Checks should be made payable to **VFW Dept. of Oklahoma** (Please note "Banquet Ticket" on your check.)

YOUR NAME: _____

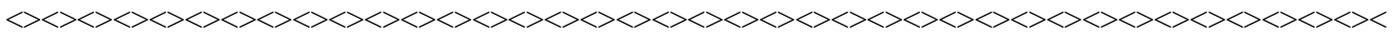
ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **Email:** _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS TO PURCHASE: _____ **#of CHICKEN** _____ **#of PORK** _____



Secure Payment via PayPal Invoice:

Let us know how many tickets you want, and we can invoice you directly via PayPal. Once your invoice is received you can go on-line and pay for your tickets either with your PayPal account or with a credit or debit card. Please note that a small convenience fee will be applied for credit card & PayPal Invoice payments. We apologize for this inconvenience.



A message from the Special Olympics Oklahoma

Hello Volunteers!

First off, you are SO missed! Here at Special Olympics Oklahoma we are searching for ways to stay connected and active during these times and want you to know we have not forgotten about you!

I actually need some volunteers for a few upcoming events & then I want to share an at-home volunteer opportunity that you can be a part of.

For the last few months an at-home opportunity has been available and has been very successful for reaching our athletes in an encouraging way! This opportunity is called **Volunteer From Home** and allows you to make homemade posters, letters, videos, and photos encouraging our athletes across Oklahoma. More information regarding this event is available through the link here to sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4EA4AC2BA6F58-volunteer>

If you have any questions regarding any of the above opportunities or have suggestions as well, please reply to this email and I will do my best in communicating back with you as soon as possible. Thank you again for all that you have done and will continue to do for Special Olympics Oklahoma and our incredible 12,100 athletes!

Josie Stephens

Volunteer Manager

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Special Olympics Oklahoma

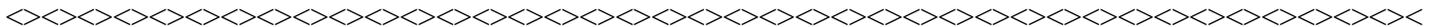
Tel +1 918-481-1234

Facebook [Special Olympics Oklahoma](#)

Volunteer Facebook [Special Olympics Oklahoma Volunteers](#)

Instagram [@SOOKlahoma](#)

Twitter [@SOOKlahoma](#)



American Red Cross

We are with you, wherever you are, 24
hours a day, everyday.

1-877-272-7337 or redcross.org/military

American Red Cross Needs YOU!

Please join us as a Red Cross Volunteer Mental Health Facilitator!

We are looking for volunteers interested in facilitating virtual, interactive, engaging, psychoeducational, small-group workshops for military service members, Veterans, their family-members, and caregivers.

Our Goals:

Provide a safe educational space for participants to discuss challenges and concerns and learn the tools to build upon their natural resilience.

Ready To Join The Team? Need more information?

Please contact Samantha Hand at Samantha.hand@redcross.org or call 405-245-6467.

What is needed?

- Master's level or higher mental health professional with independent, clinical, and unencumbered license.
- Interest in facilitating 2 or more workshops:

What is required?

- Facilitate a minimum of two times a year
- Able to facilitate virtually and/or in person
- Actively participate in short virtual training course
- Provide copy of current license with visible expiration date

Red Cross provides:

- All training and materials
- CEs for completion of facilitator training
- Tech hosts for virtual and in person workshops

Current workshops

- Creating Calm
- Stress Solutions Reconnections--Adult / Child Family Laugh and Learn
- Calm and Connected Virtual Chat for teens Mind/Body workshops

Volunteer Opportunities with Service to the Armed Forces

- Virtual Briefing Facilitators
- Virtual Workshop Tech Hosts
- Casework
- Youth Action Campaign (Ages 13-24)
- MTF Pharmacy Teams
- Remote Office Support
- Pharmacy
- Dental/Medical Assisting
- Sewing Auxiliary

We are with you, wherever you are, 24 hours a day, every day. 1-877-272-7337 or redcross.org/military

Virtual Resiliency Workshops

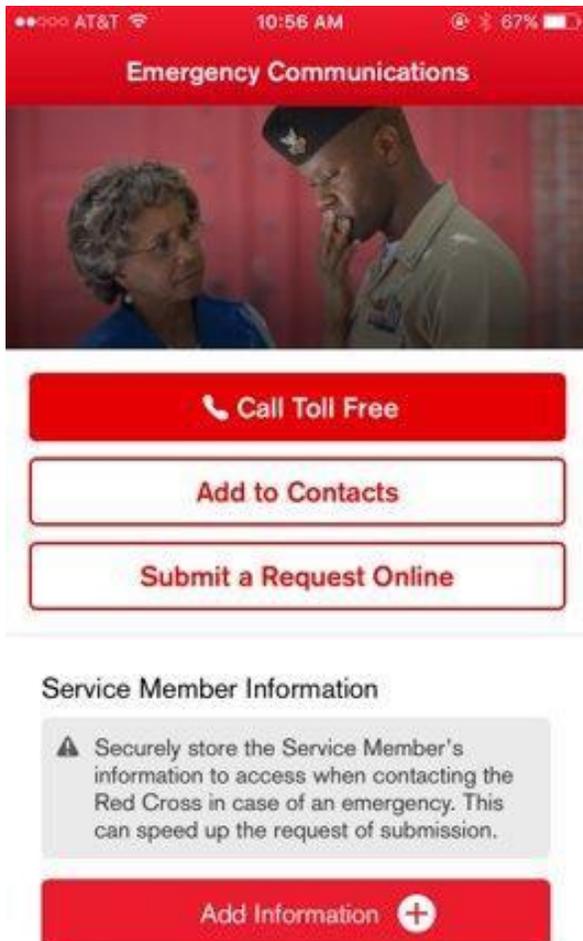
- Live, interactive, virtual workshops.
- Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard, Veterans, Family Members, Family Readiness, Ombudsmen, Key Spouses, and Caregivers of Military/Veterans.
- Topics Include
 - Stress Solutions
 - Effective Communication
 - Reconnection Workshops
- Ready to schedule a workshop for your command, group, or family?

Contact us by phone or email to set up your workshop today!
 katrina.velarde@redcross.org 785-477-1751
 samantha.hand@redcross.org 405-245-6467

Hero Care APP

Easy to use free smart phone application.

The fastest way to
 send an emergency
 message
 Text
 'GETHEROCARE'
 to 90999.



Contact Information:

If you would like more information on the American Red Cross, it's programs, or volunteering or helping, please contact Samantha Hand at Samantha.hand@redcross.org or call 405-245-6467 or

Rebecca McGary, rebecca.mcgary@redcross.org or call 405-228-9547, VFW Post 8706.