

THE KANSAS



BULLETIN

VFW

THE OLDEST STATE PUBLICATION IN THE VFW

Volume 89, Issue 2

State Commander
Ken Allred

November 2020

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VFW Kansas Website



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Less We Forget





State Commander

Comrades,

I hope this finds you all in good health and spirits. With the virus still dominating everything we do we need to take a look at how we are operating our posts. We need to follow all federal, state, and local rules and regulations. If any post is forced to close due to the virus it needs to be reported to state headquarters.

The state is currently 15th in VFW rankings with a percent of 87.87, and I would like us to be 90 percent by the end of December. That figures out to 8 members a day. I believe a few phone calls to unpaid members and those coming due soon will get us to the 90 percent.

I understand that many Veteran day activities were canceled this year but posts still held ceremonies, and those that were allowed to hold activities continued as normal. I want to thank all of you for what you did for Veterans.

As a reminder be sure to get your registration in for the Mid Winter being held at Junction City the 15-17 January 2021. It might be a little different this year due to the virus but we will still be able to have a great time and see and visit with old friends.

As we are close to ending the year I would like to thank you all for the extra time and trouble this year in taking care of Veterans. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy your Thanksgiving and share with a Veteran if you can.

Ken Allred





State Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

We are now entering into the mid-year of our membership program. Currently the Department of Kansas is 2,113 behind in membership compared to this time last year, standing 88% in total membership. The last report I received from National Headquarters the Department of Kansas has 56 Posts only needing 10 or less members to become 100%. Imagine all those Post becoming 100% by January 1st. With everyone's help once again your Department can achieve 100% in Membership.

We all know this Covid-19 epidemic has very much raised havoc in our efforts to go out into the public and recruit new members. We must look at our own Post membership and retain our current members.

On the National VFW Website they have numerous tools to help in aiding you work the membership program, such as Videos, Webinars, Training Materials, and many more other downloads to help you reach your goals. As always your State Leadership is available to assist you with anything you need.

Comrades, if you are an annual member I encourage you to become a Life Member and if you're already a Life Member please consider becoming a Legacy Life Member. Either of the two Life Memberships not only benefits you it does help your own Home Post and your Department.

In your Service,

Lee Hursey
Dept. of KS, SVC



State Jr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

Once again we are facing challenges in conducting our routine business, special events, and meetings. I commend all of you for what you have accomplished so far this year. Community Service Reporting is humming right along. However, membership is the key to it all.

Increasing our membership is a must if we are going to serve ALL veterans in a determined and effective way. I believe the key to attracting younger veterans is getting better at explaining what the VFW, as an organization is doing. Let's stress to them that we do represent their interests, respect their opinions and that we need their help. Many of them have families and jobs that take a good deal of their time. There may be limits on their time they can offer in post activities at first, but there is no limit to our enthusiasm to having them onboard. Allow them time to grow into the organization. Helping with a burger burn, doing buddy poppy distributions, be on committee to select VOD or Patriot Pen submission, assist with Post event planning. Reach out, but most of all, LISTEN to them like you listen to your brother or sister. We are all in this together.

There are four categories of Community Service, Veteran Service, Legislative Affairs, and Youth Activities. This achievement earns bonus points towards All State Post Award.

Community Service Reporting and Community Activity programs are the primary responsibility for me as State Junior Vice Commander. I have an obligation and duty to provide assistance and training to the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas. I also want to extend my interest in suggestions and concerns from the posts and/or their members on things that can be done to improve these programs or be of service to the membership. I encourage you to inform Department officers of post events you may schedule throughout the year so we can support and/or assist with these events in your communities if needed to help you meet your goals. We are all in this together as we strive to meet the needs of the veteran community and our youth in America.

James Ratcliff,
State Jr. Vice Commander





State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Comrades:

We are facing immense change in the way we approach and do things in our organization and must be willing to adapt and improvise to succeed and exist. We still have the constants that need to be done on a yearly, quarterly, or regular basis, i.e., bonding, inspections, buying poppies to distribute, doing our VFW Programs, timely reporting, and documentation of the same, and Post and District Audits.

Now is the time for your Post to really shine in your community amidst this pandemic of Covid-19. Your Post could be the fore runner in assisting the elderly and shut-ins by delivering their groceries or doing errands for them that the laws will allow you to do.

Now is the time that you should be forwarding your Post entries in the V.O.D., Patriot's Pen, and Teacher Award Programs to your respective District Chairman for District Competition. Make sure you sign each entry and enter the amount of competitors and amount of money spent on awards and other expenses for each of the individual programs. For V.O.D. and Patriot's Pen a Post can have one entry submitted to District for each 15 entries or part of an entry, i.e., 15 or less equals one entry, 31 equals 3 entries, and so on.

The employees at Department Hq. work for you and are always willing to assist you if at all possible.

In Respectful Comradeship
Herb Schwartzkopf
Department of Ks. Adjutant/Quartermaster

State Legislature

Comrades:

First of all, I want to Thank ALL of You for Voting in the General Election that has just been completed, because Veterans always take their responsibilities seriously whether as an active duty serviceman/woman or in civilian/veteran status. You should tell your Post Community Service Chairman you voted so he can count you when he turns in his legislative report.

If you write or visit a U.S. or State Legislator, County Commission, City Council, report that and deliver a copy if a letter or testimony to your Community Service Chairman so he again can report that as a Legislative Report.

We will send out an email if the American Legion holds their yearly meet and greet with the Kansas Legislature so you will have an opportunity to attend. This usually happens in early January and this year we will have to see what Covid-19 rules, ordinances, and laws are in place as to whether it can be held. This is an excellent opportunity to express to the new Legislature the VFW priorities for 2021 and beyond and the top two are: 1. A new Veteran's Home, (preferably in Northeast Kansas), 2. A Veterans Assistance Fund to be administered by willing Service Organizations, i.e., Kansas VFW, Kansas American Legion, Kansas D.A.V., and etal.

The employees at Department Hq. work for you and are always willing to assist you if at all possible.

In Respectful Comradeship
Herb Schwartzkopf
Department of Ks. Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department Legislative Chairman





State Chaplain

I thank God for the members in our Posts and Auxiliaries. Working together is what accomplishes whatever we undertake. I pray all are being able to cope with your situation. This year has been challenging to all of us. Coronavirus, schools not functioning in usual way, sports interrupted by players testing positive, business by no means operating in normal fashion, businesses closing up for good, loss of jobs, friends and relatives getting sick and the stress on each individual.

We of the VFW and Auxiliary need to not let all that is happening keep us from doing what we are to be doing within our communities. Yes, there are limitations, but we just have to be more inventive in our approach. Above all we need to continually reach out to God for strength and support. Be anxious, don't fret, don't worry, but praying with thanksgiving, let your requests be made to God. God will give you a peace that passes all understanding that will comfort and encourage you as you tackle the situation that you have been fretting over. May God richly bless America and the efforts of the VFW and Auxiliary!

Jim Jenkins
Department Chaplain



State Inspector

Comrades,

I hope everyone is doing well.

There are Posts that have missing audits and bonds. I encourage each Post and District to submit audits on time.

Thank you to all the Posts, Districts for completing the Post inspections.

The District Inspectors along with myself are here to provide assistance, training, and support.

Please reach out if we can assist you or answer any questions.

In comradeship,
Vance Hill
State Inspector
State Emergency Services Director





State Judge Advocate

Dallas Love
Department Judge Advocate



State Surgeon

Dept. of Kansas Comrades,

I hope this update finds each of you healthy and prosperous. With all that is taking place in our world today, please do not forget those friends and Comrades that are in our Soldiers homes, VA hospitals, care homes and local hospitals. Times like these is when an ear could literally save a life. Be there for those that may need to talk.

Despite the pandemic, you Comrades are still doing the work in our communities. I could not be prouder of the work accomplished. Thus far here is what you have done:

227 Total reports
2110 Workers
4645 Hours worked
45,850 Miles driven
\$220,440.74 in total time and equipment.

Great job Department of Kansas. Hope to see each of you in Junction City for our Department Mid-Winter 15-17 January 2021.

James SARGE Langley
Department of Kansas
SURGEON.





State Chief of Staff

Hello Comrades,

It's been a difficult summer...fall is fading and winter approaches...hope you and your families stay protected and safe. Reach out if you need help...assistance or a good ear to listen.

Let's keep pushing membership...supporting our VFW Programs as best you can...tough BUT not impossible. Get your audits and required paperwork in on time...again doable or ask for help. Be thankful and safe during Thanksgiving and Christmas...reachout

when possible to help those needing a hand UP...NEVER MORE THAN A PHONE CALL AWAY IF YOU GOT A QUESTION OR WORKING THRU AN ISSUE...913-775-1998.

In Comradeship,

Lynn Rolf Jr.
State Chief of Staff
lynnwrolfjr@gmail.com
913-775-1998



Past State Commander

Comrades, Sister and Brothers,

First off all I can't believe that this year is half way over. This Covid-19 has sure tested the VFW but has not slowed down "Team Kansas". Please take care of yourselves and your families, wear your mask, stay 6ft away from others and avoid large groups.

The VFW has dropped considerably in the last 5 yrs with Membership. Membership has always been on worked extremely hard and "THAT'S WHAT WINNERS DO". Keep up the Hard Work Comrades and let's make that 100% Goal Attainment for our Commander This YEAR.

This has always been a Great Concern of Mine in the Past, Now and will be in the Future. Here we go, Some members were elected to various positions by membership such as Commander, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice ect., ect.. We that have filled those positions need to "GET INTO THE VFW BY-LAWS, READ WHAT OUR RESPONSIBILITES ARE AND START DOING OUR JOBS", We Owe That To Our Membership, come on Comrades this is for just 1 year just for some of you. Now one more thing, WE need to start MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS IN OUR POST, DISTRICTS AND DEPARTMENT so that we can continue to grow in a Positive Manner. (Communicate, Train, Communicate, Train)

"TEAM KANSAS" WE ARE WINNERS AND WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO SHOW OTHERS IN OUR VFW THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE IN ALL FACETS OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION. Always Remember: "I CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU DON'T ASK".

Patrick M. Briggs
Past State Commander &
Your National Council of Administration Committee Member





7th District Commander

Greetings 7th District and 7th District Auxiliary,

2020 has proven to be a tough year. Seems like we get one thing sort of under control only to have two or three other things go crazy. Common sense is gone and chaos and confusion seem to be the order of the day. A friend of mine the other day commented that he wasted good money on a 2020 planner this year. So, what is our next step?

As you know, Eisenhower Pilgrimage has been cancelled this year, along with everything else. However, if there is a light at the end of the tunnel, it would be in our youth in the schools. Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, are two very good programs of the VFW that need to be implemented in our schools right away. Again, this should be underway because the close out date for these programs was October 31, 2020. But, there are also other programs as well. Scholarships, for instance, and Veteran's Day is coming up, or have a Flag Disposal Ceremony. Just because you have fallen behind doesn't mean your Post can't catch up or start something now. It is never to late to succeed.

The answer to beating this Covid mess is to turn the "Scary News Off", get active, and keep busy. Remember that we are here to help Veterans, and by doing that, we will be helping ourselves beat the blah's and uncertainty that seems to be running rampant today.

Seems like there is always a Veteran worse off than myself, and when I focus on helping him/her, I seem to forget some of my problems and tough times that I am going through.

Always remember that tough times and hardships come upon everyone. Just remain thankful that you can be an answer to someone's prayer and a help to our Veterans.

Always remember, membership is our "Lifblood" and we desperately need to continue our work. God Bless You All.

Our District Meetings could really use a boost as we seem to be having a hard time keeping our numbers up. If you have not attended a District meeting or if you have missed a few meetings, why not try again and join/rejoin us?

Here's your chance: January 23, 10 a.m. at Dodge City Post #1714. (Saturday) It will be our Mid – Winter Meeting and we would love to see you.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

God Bless You All,
Terry Warner
785-259-9193
7th District Commander





The VFW Post 56 Riders revved their engines, cars honked their horns and wished the newest centenarian happy birthday.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.) It's not everyday you turn 100-years-old.

Saturday afternoon, Earl Hammer got the surprise birthday party of a lifetime.

Motorcycles circled the Country Squire retirement community to celebrate the WWII, turning 100 years young this coming Monday.

The VFW Post 56 Riders revved their engines, cars honked their horns and wished the newest centenarian happy birthday.

“Oh, totally a surprise!” said Earl Hammer, 100-year-old veteran.

Earl said it wasn't the party he imagined for his 100th birthday, it was better.

“Number one, I'd say,” said Earl, “I'm just elated today.”

Earl served in the Marine Cop from 1942-1945.

In celebration of his birthday, the VFW Post 56 Riders presented Earl with a plaque for his service.

“I appreciate that God put me in the Marine Corp. I think he did,” said Earl.

Earl's birthday parade was such a hit, he made plans for the riders to come back next year for his 101th birthday.



Veterans Day is a day on which we as Americans have a lot to remember. We remember the wars fought to defend, protect and preserve the freedoms we enjoy in this country. We also remember all those who have bravely gone to war and who have given of themselves so that others could live in peace and safety. And, we also remember those who have gone to war and paid the highest price for those freedoms.

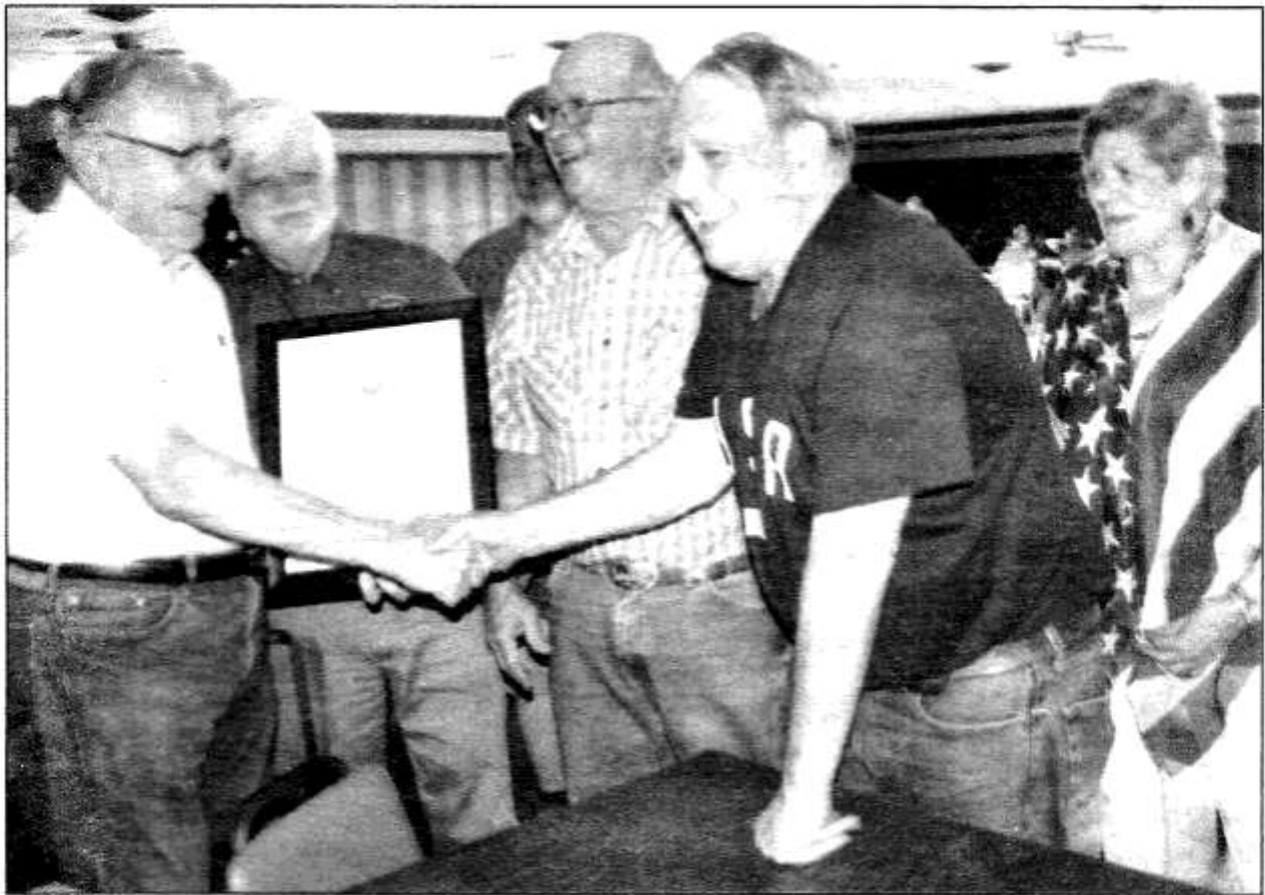
Those of us who care to honor America's heroes gathered together because we are honoring our sons and daughters, our mothers and fathers, and our brothers and sisters, who are serving on behalf of everyone in our great country ... just like the generations of American patriots did before them.

Correction for Roster Book:

**State Judge Advocate
Dallas Love's phone # is 316-518-7170**

My apologies for this mistake in the roster book.





During the early evening of Aug. 8, at the Russell Veterans of Foreign Wars 6240 post home during the State Mid-Summer Meeting of the Kansas VFW and its Auxiliary. Fred Weigel Jr. of Russell, at far left, is pictured shortly after he received the Kansas VFW's 2019-2020 Wayne E. Richards Award. Pictured, from left to right, are: Weigel; Robin Ray of Haysville; Justin Krug of Russell; Lance Waymaster of Russell; Kansas VFW State Commander Ken Allred of Wichita; and Kansas State VFW Auxiliary President Jane Ryser of Clyde.

Weigel earns VFW's state adjutant award





Submitted by VFW Post 1650, Topeka, KS, from their Bingo, their Korean War Event, and their booth at the Gun Show.

(If you would like to submit some pictures from your Post's Events for our next Bulletin it will be around the middle of February 2021. I would be glad to hear from you. Please email pictures and write-up to:

bkeeper@ksvfw.org)



KANSAS HONOR FLIGHT

MISSION "To transport Kansas veterans who served our country during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to Washington, D.C. to visit the Memorials that commemorate their service to our country at no cost to the veteran".



There has been a total of 73 flights that have provided the opportunity for over 2300 of our veterans to visit our nation's capital.

The opportunity for this memorable experience is made possible by a grateful public and a large group of volunteers. There are no tax dollars involved. Financial contributions come from many sources: civic groups, military organizations, students, churches, businesses, and individuals.

Some of our aging veterans need assistance to have a safe and comfortable experience. Guardians or helpers travel with the veterans to assist in any way needed. These guardians make a tax-deductible contribution that covers all of their travel expenses, lodging, and meals. While some of the guardians may be family members or friends, some are willing to help serve to help a total stranger.

Priority is given to the older WW II veterans, then the Korean War veterans, and then the Vietnam War veterans. For each war era, the veterans are called in the order that they've submitted their applications.

With a waiting list of over 700 deserving veterans patiently waiting, the program needs the continued support of the public and the efforts of the many volunteers.

Applications are available on the web site: www.kansashonorflight.org or by calling 620-546-2400.

We are requesting that the MISSION of every post in Kansas is to use your INTEL (you know your community and those who would like to sponsor a veteran), and your BOOTS ON THE GROUND to get a sponsor or sponsors, for the KHF Golf Tournament to send one veteran to Washington D.C. The cost to send one veteran to Washington is 800 dollars.

Let's work together to reward our Veterans, most are members of your organization and some are even members of your post. We can get this done.

We have attached information on the golf tournament, tournament sponsorship form, and a registration form to play in the tournament. If you have members of your post that play golf, we would love to have them join us for a wonderful experience.

Thank You

Duane Nickel, Kansas Honor Flight Volunteer
(dunick@msn.com)





Esther McComb Award
Mary Sanko, Auxiliary Post 1714
Award presented by James Ratcliff
Department Jr. Vice Commander



If your Post would like to purchase Red Friday short sleeve T-shirts, through Headquarters give Kim a call and she will take care of you, minimum pre-paid order of 36 shirts. 785-272-6463



VFW Post 3166 Liberal Kansas

Texas Holdem at the VFW every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Starts at 7. Food served most nights starting at 6. Check with post because of virus 620-624-7447

**Continued prayers for all comrades
and auxiliary we have lost and
to all Comrades deployed**



Auxiliary News

STATE PRESIDENT



The weather has been beautiful, it was perfect for the National President's visit! Our National President, Sandra Onstwedder, wishes to extend her gratitude to all the Auxiliaries, Members, and Comrades that made her visit to Kansas a big success!

All of us are busy with our programs and trying the best we can to "think outside the box" to get things done for our Veterans with this year of Covid-19. Keep up the good work! You are coming up with some new and exciting ideas!

Veteran's Day is a prime time to provide opportunities to remember the contributions of our living Veterans. Auxiliaries and Posts will be hosting meals for Veterans, participating in parades, and sponsoring or attending events in your communities as a way of saying "Thank You". This is a great way for a family member to honor and thank the Veteran(s) in their life. Communities have the opportunity to hire a Veteran or their family member and support Veteran owned businesses, information is the key to let them know how they can support veterans and their families.

The National President's special project and also my special project is Star, Stripes and Support, it is under Unmet Needs – Hunger. This special project is to assist enlisted veterans and their families that have a hard time paying their bills to be able to provide food on the table for their children. That is why we are asking the VFW members and the Auxiliary members to bring any type of potato, dried, canned or even fresh to our Mid-Winter Conference in January in Junction City. Then the State Commander and myself will decide where we would like the potatoes to be distributed as a joint project. So please do not forget to bring some potatoes to the Mid-Winter Conference!

Membership is always an important factor in our organization, if you know of any eligible person, please let us know so they can learn what the VFW Auxiliary does and they can help us on our journey to help our Veterans! Our goal is to be 100% plus this year!

Donations to the National Home Health and Happiness fund, General Hospital Fund, and Cancer Fund are ways to get credit for program participation. Work together with your VFW Post on events such as "Buddy" Poppy distributions and Recruiting events, it will bring you closer as a team and new ideas will start to flourish!

Let's Make IT Happen for our Veterans!!!!

Have a Blessed Holiday Season! Be Safe and Stay Healthy!

Jane Ryser

President

Department of Kansas

VFW Auxiliary

Auxiliary News

STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Tessa Butcher
Department of Kansas Sr. Vice President

STATE JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Greetings Everyone!

How can it already be November? In October we welcomed Auxiliary National President Sandi and travelled northeast Kansas. This was a very enjoyable trip, and I thank those Posts and Auxiliaries who opened their doors for a meal, refreshments, or just some socializing. We also just returned from Western Conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This was my first time attending, and I enjoyed meeting new people, and participating in our program presentation at the meeting.

Official Visits to Auxiliaries are almost complete, and Districts have also completed their Fall Conferences. I was able to attend the meetings for District 1 in Atchison, District 4 in Junction City, and my own District 6 in Victoria. Program Chairmen presented a lot of good information for members to take back to their Auxiliaries. So many of our Auxiliaries are working on some great projects this year, and I want to thank them for their hard work helping our Veterans and Communities.

As we approach the end of this calendar year, I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! I hope to see everyone at Mid-Winter in January.

Sincerely,
Karol Goodin
Department Jr-Vice President

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7th District

Terry Warner
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LaCrosse 67548
785-259-9193



About Us

Our mission is very simple. We foster camaraderie among United States veterans of conflicts overseas, we serve our veterans, the military, and the communities, and we advocate on behalf of all veterans. We ensure that veterans are respected for their service, receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for their sacrifices that they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

Our core values are to put the interests of our members first, to treat donors as partners in our cause. We promote patriotism, honor military service, and ensure the care of veterans and their families, and serve in our communities. We always promote a positive image of the VFW and respect the diversity of veteran opinions.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
Visit us on the Web

VFW
Department of
Kansas

At www.vfwks.org

