

# Stroud to represent National at Illinois Mid-Winter Conference

Past Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud will represent the national organization at the Illinois VFW Mid-Winter Conference and State Voice of Democracy banquet, Feb. 8-11, 2018 in Springfield, Illinois.

Stroud was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 23, 2014, at the VFW's 115th National Convention, held in St. Louis, Mo.

Stroud served in the U.S. Air Force from 1976-1997, including a tour in Korea in 1992-1993 with the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base as a Flight Operations Superintendent. His decorations include four Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, three Air Force Achievement Medals, the Korea Defense Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

He joined the VFW in 1996 at Post 10047 in Las Vegas, Nev. He maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership at Post 2313 in Hawthorne, Nev.

Stroud has served the VFW in many leadership positions, including Nevada Department

Commander in 2006-2007. He has also served on numerous National Committees, including Chairman of the National Veterans Service Committee. He is a Triple Crown All American Commander Award recipient.

Stroud graduated with honors from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics. He worked as the Mineral County Building Official and is now retired.

Stroud is a member of the American Legion, the Elks, and is a Life member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Cootie and the VFW National Home for Children.

He and his wife Mary have five children and 10 grandchildren; they reside in Hawthorne, Nev.



Stroud



Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 in Oak Lawn posted the colors at a ceremony at Hines VA Hospital commemorating POW-MIA Day. Several former Prisoners of War were present. It was quite moving seeing these war heroes in person. After the ceremony, the post members assisted in a balloon launch in honor of those Killed in Action and those listed as Missing in Action. Pictured from left, Rick Luemen, Tony Smertene, Dave Ramirez, and Ed Howe.

**ATTENTION: USE THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP BELOW TO SIGN UP A NEW/RECOVERED MEMBER AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT FROM STATE COMMANDER JEFF HASTINGS. APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO STATE HEADQUARTERS - PO BOX 13206 - SPRINGFIELD, IL 62791**

## VFW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

DATES OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / YY MM / YY MM / DD / YYYY

MILITARY SERVICE  ACTIVE DUTY  VETERAN  NAT. GUARD/RESERVE **BRANCH OF SERVICE**  ARMY  NAVY  AIR FORCE  MARINES  COAST GUARD

QUALIFYING FOREIGN SERVICE:  
 WW II  VIETNAM SERVICE  AFGHANISTAN (2001 - present)  HOSTILE FIRE/IMMINENT DANGER PAY  
 OCCUPATIONAL SERVICE  DESERT SHIELD/STORM  IRAQ (2003 - 2011)  
 KOREAN SERVICE (1950-1954)  BOSNIA/KOSOVO  SSBN DETERRENT PATROL INSIGNIA Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 KOREA DUTY (1955 - present)  GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY  EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Authorization - You may pay by check or credit card. For payments by check, you will receive a yearly statement by mail. For credit card payments, please complete the following:

**ANNUAL MEMBER**  
 I authorize the VFW to automatically charge my account \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on a yearly basis to pay my Annual membership dues.  
 I authorize the VFW to charge my account a one-time payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**LIFE MEMBER**  
 I authorize the VFW to charge my account a one-time payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**LIFE MEMBER INSTALLMENT PLAN**  
 I authorize the VFW to automatically charge my account \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid in 11 monthly installment payments after my initial payment of \$45.00.  
 I authorize the VFW to charge the \$45.00 initial payment and I understand that I will be billed for the remaining 11 monthly installment payments.

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mastercard, Visa, Discover or Amex only)

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW Post # \_\_\_\_\_  FORMER MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_  
 TRANSFER from Post # \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ to Post # \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECRUITER (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 QUARTERMASTER (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

### Life Member Options

AGE as of DECEMBER 31*	One-Time Payment	\$45 + 11 Payments of
18-30 Years Old	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40 Years Old	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50 Years Old	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60 Years Old	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70 Years Old	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80 Years Old	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 Years & Over	\$170.00	\$15.45

**Automatic Payment Plan Terms and Conditions:** You authorize the VFW to initiate electronic debit entries or affect a charge by any other commercially accepted practice to your account set forth above for the payment of dues reflected on this application. You understand such charges may be made within 2-3 business days of payment due date. For installment payments, charges will be made on or around the 1st or 15th day of the month. This authorization will remain in full force until VFW has received notification from you of its termination or upon completion of the installment payments. Annual dues are subject to change. By completing this authorization, you acknowledge that you will only receive notice when the payment would differ by more than \$10.00 from the most recent payment. Call VFW Customer Service at 1-800-963-3180 or write to VFW at VFW P.O. Box 119028, Kansas City, MO. 64171 to inquire about or cancel a payment, or to report problems such as bank closures, lost or stolen account numbers, closed accounts or unauthorized transactions. Cancellation requests must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time ten business days prior to the scheduled payment date. If you are unaware of the charge date for your account, please contact VFW. If a payment is returned by your financial institution (e.g., due to insufficient funds, incorrect account information, closed account, etc.) the VFW will contact you at the address we have on file for you, explaining why the payment could not be processed, and providing alternate payment options. The privilege of making payments under this agreement may be revoked by VFW if any item is not paid upon presentation. You may have additional rights and responsibilities under the Electronic Funds Transfer Act.

**Life Membership Installment Plan Terms and Conditions:** The VFW Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making an initial payment of \$45.00 and (11) monthly payments. The member will be issued an Annual membership card at the time of enrollment. The member may elect to receive a monthly statement by mail or may set up a payment profile to make the monthly payment automatically using a credit/debit card or bank account. A payoff amount will be printed on each monthly invoice, allowing the member the option to pay in full. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon the completion of payments. The Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on December 31 of the year in which the application is submitted.

**Delinquencies will be handled as follows:** Up to 30 days - continue to bill, 31 to 120 days - delinquency can be corrected through make up payment(s) or plan end date pushed forward, More than 120 days - member is dropped from the Installment Plan, all monthly payments made to date, are applied to future years annual dues.

**VFW PLEDGE** I do, of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that:

I will bear true allegiance -- to the Constitution of the United States of America -- and I will always be loyal thereto -- that I will never wrong or defraud this organization -- nor a member thereof -- nor permit any wrong to be done to either -- if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership -- any person not eligible -- nor one whom I know to be unworthy. I will never make known to anyone -- not authorized to receive it -- any of the work of this order. Should my affiliation -- with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States -- cease in any way -- I will consider this pledge -- as binding outside of the order -- as though I had remained a member of same. All this I promise and pledge -- upon the honor of a true comrade -- and a citizen of our great republic.

I attest that I am a citizen of the United States, that my Campaign Service was honorable, that I have never subsequently been discharged from military service under dishonorable conditions. I also certify that (1) I am entitled to a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. Government based on my overseas service or; (2) I have served overseas in Korea or; I have received Imminent Danger/Hostile Fire pay. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to verify honorable overseas service entitling me to membership.

The review committee has performed its duties and recommends  approval,  rejection.

Applicants Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\$1.98 of your membership dues goes towards your VFW magazine subscription.

Committee Member \_\_\_\_\_ Committee Member \_\_\_\_\_ Committee Member \_\_\_\_\_



### Altar'd State "gives back" to Schaumburg VFW

Joe Wein, Quartermaster, William E. Sarb Post 2202 in Schaumburg, accepts a donation from the retailer "Altar'd State" as part of that business' "give back" program. They donated \$1648 from a portion of their sales to VFW 2202.



The August 24, 2017 VNC Honor Flight 2017 to Washington DC included VFW members from Streamwood Post 5151 (From L to R) Jerry Gold, Dave Warkel, Bob Mattson and Bill Wagner in front of the Women's Memorial next to the Vietnam Wall.