



## **VFW Day of Service Fact Sheet**

### **VFW Day of Service**

1. Launched in 2022, this veteran-led initiative kicks off on the first Saturday in May with this dedicated day of service marking the start of community service projects taking place throughout the month of May.
2. Created by the VFW, all veteran service organizations, other non-profit organizations and civilians are encouraged to come together and participate in this giant give-back to their local communities.
3. Service focused, VFW Day of Service directs participants to raise resources (not funds), meet needs and make a difference in tangible ways.
4. VFW members, veterans and interested parties are asked to visit [VFWDayofService.org](https://VFWDayofService.org) to register their event on the interactive Day of Service map and receive a special participation decal or find a local event to join, and see the other veteran-led service projects are planned around the country and how they will make a difference.
5. VFW Day of Service is an outgrowth of the ongoing VFW #StillServing initiative launched in January of 2020 to highlight all the veterans who continue to serve in their communities after the military.

### **Veterans do more compared to the civilian population.<sup>1</sup>**

1. Veterans average nearly 30 percent more volunteer hours per year.
2. Nearly 40 percent more veterans belong to a group working on community issues.
3. Young veterans are the differentiating factor that make veterans more likely than non-veterans to volunteer.

4. Veterans are more like to be registered to vote (7 percent) and have recently voted (6 percent).
5. Veterans outpace civilians 15 percent in charitable donations.

<sup>1</sup> 2021 [Veterans Civic Health Index](#)

### **Veteran population**

1. There were about 18 million Americans who were veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in 2018.<sup>2</sup>  
That is equal to about 7 percent or one out of every 14 U.S. adults.
2. At its height in 1980, there were nearly 29 million U.S. veterans and nearly three-quarters members of Congress had served in uniform. In the current Congress, 17 percent of members are veterans.<sup>3</sup>
3. Gulf War-era veterans (41 percent) have surpassed Vietnam-era veterans (31 percent) as the largest share of all veterans.<sup>3</sup>
4. As with overall U.S. population trends, the veteran population is expected to become more diverse:<sup>3</sup>

<b>Population</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2046</b>
Non-Hispanic white men	74%	62%
Women	11%	18%
Black	13%	15%
Hispanic	8%	16%

<sup>2</sup> Those Who Served: America’s Veterans From World War II to the War on Terror.  
[U. S. Census Bureau June 2020](#)

<sup>3</sup> The changing face of America’s veteran population  
[Pew Research Center. April 5, 2021](#)

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

1. 1.5 million VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.
2. 5,900+ VFW Posts worldwide.
3. 3.3 million volunteer hours contributed annually by VFW members.
4. Founded 1899.

For more information about VFW Day of Service contact [info@todaysvfw.org](mailto:info@todaysvfw.org).  
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