

A lesson that should be taught in all schools and colleges

This year, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a Social Studies school teacher at Robinson High School, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principle and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered all of the desks out of her classroom. *'Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?'*

She replied, *'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk?'*

They thought, *'Well, maybe it's our grades.'*

'No,' she said.

'Maybe it's our behavior.'

She told them, *'No, it's not even your behavior.'*

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom.

By early afternoon television news crews started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all of the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, Martha Cothren said, *'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.'*

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it.

Twenty-seven (27) War Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, *'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.'*

By the way, this is a true story.

Please consider passing this along so others won't forget that the freedoms we have in this great country were earned by War Veterans.

VFW NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING

- ◆ COMMUNITY SERVICE AS DEFINED BY THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE TRUST ACT ENCOMPASSES ANY HUMAN ACT SERVING THE COMMON GOOD: IN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY; ELSEWHERE, COMMUNITY SERVICE IS FURTHER DEFINED AS A SERVICE THAT IS PERFORMED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC OR ITS INSTITUTIONS.

- ◆ THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES SUBSCRIBES TO THE ABOVE BUT ADDS, THAT FOR THE PURPOSES OF VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION, VFW COMMUNITY SERVICE MUST BE PERFORMED BY AND AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND MUST BE PERFORMED FOR AN ORGANIZATION *OUTSIDE* THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARIES.

- ◆ IN ADDITION, EFFORTS PERFORMED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POST OR AUXILIARIES BENEFIT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS COMMUNITY SERVICE. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS KIND OF EFFORT WOULD BE MAINTENANCE, UP-KEEP OR BEAUTIFICATION OF THE POST HOME, COOKING OR SERVING A MEAL FOR A POST FUND RAISER, OR WORKING ON BINGO NIGHT. ADDITIONALLY, EFFORTS THAT ARE PART OF THE NORMAL REQUIREMENTS OF A POST OR AUXILIARY WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED COMMUNITY SERVICE. EXAMPLES OF THIS WOULD BE PROVIDING AN HONOR GUARD FOR A MEMBER'S FUNERAL, FLYING THE AMERICAN FLAG AND CONDUCTING A FLAG RETIREMENT PROGRAM (UNLESS THIS IS PERFORMED FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.)

- ◆ **A PARTICULARLY CONTROVERSIAL AREA** IN VFW COMMUNITY SERVICE IS SERVICE TO ONE'S CHURCH. GENERALLY, THESE EFFORTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR TWO REASONS: 1) THEY ARE NOT PERFORMED FOR THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE; 2) THEY ARE A PART OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S SERVICE TO THEIR FAITH AND NOT TO THE VFW. THE EXCEPTION TO THIS WOULD BE PERFORMING THE SAME TYPE OF SERVICE FOR ALL CHURCHES, ETC, IN A GIVEN COMMUNITY.

- * THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, WHAT YOU DO FOR THE VFW TO KEEP AND MAINTAIN IT'S CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER AND FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

Preparing a Community Service Record Book

Post and Auxiliaries carry on many projects that are of Public Service. The best way to tell the story of your Post and Auxiliary/s work in the Community is through a *Community Service Record Book*, which contains evidence of the many projects and programs that your Post and Auxiliary/s perform.

The contents of your *Community Service Record Book* should be arranged and in such detail, that it tells the story of each project, clearly and completely, to those who will read and judge it.

Post and Auxiliary/s should combine their Community Service Programs into one book, or a set of books. *The Post and Auxiliary/s will be judged as a Unit in this contest.*

Remember-compile your book so that the judges can easily read and evaluate the facts of what you have done. Do not assume that the judges are familiar with your Post or area. In other words, make your *Community Service Record Book* as complete as possible, because it must "tell the story" of your Community Service.

- Attach all entries in your *Community Service Record Book* securely.
 - Index or summarize the activities and projects/programs that are included in your book.
 - *The index or summary must be placed on the front cover of your Community Service Record Book, or at the front of each category or section.*
 - Apply captions or titles to photographs and datelines to newspaper clippings. (Even though Auxiliaries usually submit the whole page that contains the article in a newspaper or other media, it is not necessary here).
- ⇒ The entry form (located below) provides vital information to the Department Judges concerning the number of members in your Post (including Auxiliary members); the number of projects you have completed; the number of people who have benefited and the amount of time and monies that have been spent.
- Top winners in Department Judging will be those Posts/Auxiliaries who have *performed, recorded and entered evidence* of their Community Service.
 - *Community Service Record Books* are judged solely on the contents of the Community Service Projects/Programs that are reported. It is not necessary to prepare an expensive or costly book; Your *Community Service Record Book* will be judged by its content - not the cover.

Attach this entry form to the inside front cover/s of your book/s.

Post/Auxiliary/s No. _____ District No. ____ Volume No. ____

Number of Members in Post & Auxiliary/s (combined) _____

Number of Projects/Programs Completed _____ Total Number of Hours _____

Number of People Who Have Benefited _____

Total Monies Spent _____ Total Miles Driven _____

Basic Examples of what can and cannot be reported:

- * **THESE ARE REAL EXAMPLES OF WHAT CAN AND CAN NOT BE REPORTED**
- * HOPE THESE EXAMPLES HELP YOU-THERE ARE MANY OTHER THINGS THAT CAN BE REPORTED-SEE YOUR STATE/DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN FOR OTHER IDEAS.

WHAT CAN BE REPORTED:

- Gave City of North Charleston \$500.00 to help for World War II Veteran trip (Community Service.)
- Held Memorial Service for departed Comrade and served lunch to the family members (aide-to-others)
- Visited Ralph H. Johnson Medical Center and served snacks to patients (aide-to-others and Community Service report.)
- Donated \$300.00 to *Rolling Thunder* to bring a POW/MIA family to the POW/MIA museum (aide-to-others, Community Service and Americanism report.)
- Held Loyalty Day ceremony (Americanism.)
- Put flags on Veterans graves in Riverview cemetery and placed a wreath and performed a ceremony at Captain John L. Weeks gravesite (Americanism.)
- Gave service member's family money to reach her destination (Military Service, Community Service.)
- Sent five (5) *care packages* to service members (Military Service report and aide-to-others report.)
- Post cleaned up one (1) park (Community Service.)
- Post cleaned up both sides of highway (Community Service.)
- Post visits local nursing home, loans wheel chairs, walkers, sends flowers to deceased members families and sends cards (Community Service and aide-to-others reports.)
- Sunset Park & Rock Hill parade (Community Service and Americanism report.)
- Veterans Day Ceremony (Americanism and Community Service reports.)
- Cleaned up beach on the Isle-of-Palms (Community Service report.)
- Went out to the Community and collected US flags for proper disposal-this shows the Community about proper flag etiquette (Community Service report.)
- Donated to Richy Cliff Annual Memorial Golf tournament (Community Service report.)
- Gave away first aid kits and batteries for smoke detectors (Safety report.)
- Participated in Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Citizenship Education programs. Also gave money to our Post winners (Community Service, Americanism and Youth Activities report.)
- Re-cycled aluminum cans (Community Service.)
- Taught Boy Scout troop flag etiquette (Youth Activities and Americanism report.)

WHAT CAN BE REPORTED continued:

- Painted front porch and trim for Veteran's widow (Community Service and aide-to-others report.)
- Assisted out-of-town Veteran who had vehicle mechanical trouble (aide-to-others.) **Note: Be careful in this area; you might think you are helping when, in fact, you are being scammed-don't just hand the person the money-verify.)**
- Assisted local family with burial expenses (aide-to-others and Community Service report.)
- Assisted Iraq/Afgan. returnee. (Military Service and aide-to-others.)
- Comrade purchased, prepared and delivered food to a family (aide-to-others and Community Service report.)
- Comrade volunteered in tutoring at Blackville-Hilda School (Community Service and Youth Activities report.)
- Spoke to students on Veterans Day at local school (Community Service, Americanism and Youth Activities report.)
- Helped deliver meals to community (Community Service and aide-to-others report.)
- Gave money to two (2) Vet Centers (Community Service and aide-to-others reports.)
- Gave a wheelchair to a Veteran (Community Service and aide-to-others report.)
- Gave food and shelter to a disabled/homeless Veteran (aide-to-others report.)
- Donated blood (Community Service and aide-to-others report.)
- Gave out World War II and Korean medals to Veterans who never received them (Americanism report.)
- Transported Veterans to VA (Community Service and aide-to-others reports.)
- Donated money to Cherokee Animal Shelter (Community Service and aide-to-others.)

WHAT CAN NOT BE REPORTED:

- Flew the US flag at home and at the Post.
- Was a church usher.
- Taught Sunday School.
- Put on breakfast for Post members.
- Cleaned up the Post.
- Spent \$750.00 for smokeless fans for Post.
- Mowed the yard at the Post.



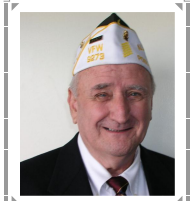
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2011-2012 COMMUNITY SERVICE APPOINTED OFFICERS



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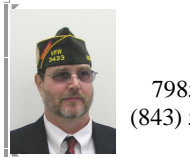
VFW STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN
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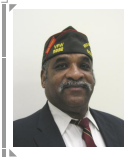
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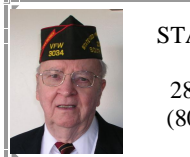
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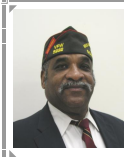
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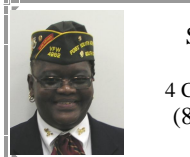
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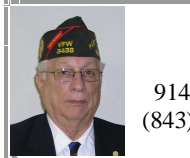
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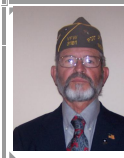
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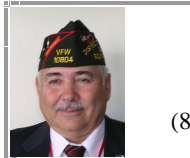
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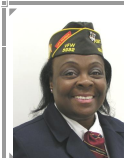
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