



Uniform Guide

Approved by Post 688 AC December 2023

There are a lot of options for creativity in our uniforms. However, there are some things that need to be standardized to present a uniform and professional appearance. All items are purchased and maintained at the member's expense. Depending on the occasion, the Post Commander has the discretion to set the prescribed uniform for either formal or public events. Standards set by the Auxiliary, Honor Guard, M.O.C. and VFW Riders supersede this guide during their events and functions. Product Code (PC) included, when available, for easy locating at www.vfwstore.org.

Member Cap

The VFW Member Cap is the most visible sign of membership in the VFW. All active members should have a Post Member Cap, in clean and serviceable condition. Member Caps are highly suggested for monthly Member Meetings as well as other special events as noted by the Post Commander. Member Caps are appropriate for every ceremony and official function.

Cap Design

The standard Member Cap (PC: M6151), color Shade 51 Green, is available in the standard or Ft. Knox design. Females have the option of the Ladies Cap design (PC: M6252). All Member Caps will have "VFW 688" on the front right, the VFW Cross of Malta on the right side and "Boerne, Texas" written on the left side. Optional left side stitching may include post officer position with dates of service in those positions. Life member and Legacy Life Member patches (PC: 08255) and embroidery is acceptable for members who hold that status, placed just past the curve on the right side. Continuous member bars and patches are also acceptable. All Member Caps will have the gold braid unless the member is an officer at the district, department, or national level.

Cap Fitting

The Member Cap should feel comfortable to wear. Please try several sizes that we have available at the post before you commit to purchase. Ladies Cap designs generally run larger than the standard design. A correctly worn Member Cap sits relatively level around the head, see picture on right.



Pins & Patches

Members are invited to place pins & patches related to their military service, the VFW, religious or other forms of pride. Although there are no official rules, traditionally military items are placed on the left "Boerne, Texas" side and VFW related pins are placed on the "Cross" side. Items should not be distracting or offensive in nature.

Other Types of Member Caps

Life and Legacy Life members may purchase the appropriate cap design (PC: M6300) following the above-mentioned parameters. Members of the post when it earned All-State and All-American status may purchase the appropriate cap following the above-mentioned parameters. These caps can be worn instead of the Member Cap.

Member Vest

The Member Vest is the second most visible sign of membership in the VFW. All active members should have their Vest, in clean and serviceable condition. Member Vests are encouraged for monthly Member Meetings as well as other special events as noted by the Post Commander. Member Vests are appropriate for every ceremony and official function.

Vest Design

The vest is sleeveless, button front, black, with two front pockets. Available ready to go at [346 WearGuard® Two-Pocket Vest from Aramark \(aramarkuniform.com\)](http://346WearGuard.com) (pictured), Item GLS-346 vests are available. Other vests that meet the description above are also authorized. A white t-shirt is normally worn underneath. The vest has the following specifications:

- **Patches**
 - VFW Patch - 8.5" will be centered on the back of the vest (PC: 817400).
 - VFW Life/Member Patch – 3.5" x 4.75" worn on right side, center breast pocket (PC: 08366/08365).
 - VFW Post Patch – worn on the left side, center breast pocket.
- **Medals/Badges**
 - Full or Mini Service medals and badges worn on the left side, above the VFW Post Patch, if worn.
- **Embroidery**
 - 1st name is embroidered on the right side, above the Life/Member Patch. Available at www.custumm.com.



VFW Name Tag

Name tags (PC: 01828) are an optional item for post members. If interested, the layout is as follows: The standard for post members is the gold tag. Line 1 is for your name. Line 2 reads "POST 688". Line 3 reads "BOERNE". Line 4 reads "TEXAS". Members also have the option of including their campaign medals, presented as mini ribbons, included on their name tag. The backing (i.e. clip-on, magnetic...) is up to the member. This item is available at the VFW Store.

Post Social Uniform

At the National level and throughout the VFW, there is an unofficial social uniform. This unofficial “uniform” is intended for events and meetings where business attire is recommended/appropriate. Along with the Member Cap, the following components make this “uniform”.

Blazer

A navy-blue blazer. Optionally, members can include the VFW Bullion Emblem (PC: 08228) patch or the VFW Blazer Patch (PC: 08262) on the left chest pocket area. Life and Legacy Life members have the option to purchase the Maroon Life Member Blazer (PC: 07307).

Shirt

A long sleeve white dress shirt, blouse for females, that can be buttoned to the collar.

Neckwear

The VFW store has numerous ties to choose from to include: the black VFW Logo Tie (PC: 08477) or the red with navy stripe VFW Tie (PC: 08422) or the black VFW Tie (PC: 840400/843100). Members may optionally wear black, or an officer related VFW Tie. Females can either not wear a tie or wear the Women VFW Tie (PC: 08423).

Trousers/Skirt

Grey. Preferably double knit or polyester. Females have the option of wearing a grey skirt no shorter than 1 inch above or 2 inches below the crease of the back of the knee.

Belt

A black belt, military style, or leather. Not required for female wear.

Footwear

Black dress shoes/boots. Black socks. Females may wear black pumps with a heel no greater than 3 inches. If wearing a skirt, females are recommended to wear skin tone stockings.

Accessories

On the left lapel of the blazer, members will place their VFW Cross of Malta membership pin, given when joining the post or continuous membership pin. Life and Life Legacy Members may place the appropriate lapel pin. Officers and past officers may place the pin that indicates the office currently holding/held, given when the officer assumed the position. Optional items may include service related/patriotic pins, tie bars/ chains and/or awards. On the left breast pocket, members may include their VFW Name Tag.

Monthly Member Meetings

The Member Cap is suggested for the monthly member meetings. Regular civilian attire that is not offensive and appropriate for a social setting is the standard for the meeting. On occasions, such as during awards ceremonies, the Post Commander may designate a uniform for a particular meeting ahead of time. Otherwise, only the Member Cap is suggested.



Formal Events

There is no formal uniform for the post. However, during formal events, male members are invited to wear their military service dress uniform (if it still fits), suit and tie, or a tuxedo. Female members may wear their military service dress uniform, business suit or dress/gown. As an option, in civilian wear, members are encouraged to wear miniature medals and badges earned during their time in the military. Member Caps are optional for formal events.

Military Order of the Cooties, VFW Riders, & Honor Guard

Each group within Post 688 have different requirement in terms of patches, covers, and uniforms. Please refer to the individual group for further guidance on purchase, wear, and appearance of the group specific items. While participating in an event/meeting as part of these groups, their standards supersede the guidance in this document.

Suggested Item



The VFW offers a large number of items available to its members. Most Post members have found the VFW Cap Cover (PC: 08120), pictured on the left, to be an ideal way to protect the cap between meetings/events from dust, stains and/or damage.

Sources & References

- Post 688 Uniform Guide, version 1
 - Appendix A
- www.VFWStore.org
- [346 WearGuard® Two-Pocket Vest from Aramark \(aramarkuniform.com\)](http://346WearGuard.com)
- National By-Laws, 2024

Questions & P.O.C.

The point of contact for this document is Roger Hankins, available at meetings or email at rogerhankins17@gmail.com. Questions and suggestions can be emailed to the aforementioned address.

Appendix A

Post Service Uniform for Color/Honor Guard

The Color/Honor Guard uniform is optional for post members but may be required for certain summer or indoor meetings/events. The Member Cap is included. The basic shirt is a button front, short sleeve or long sleeve white shirt. Post members have the option of purchasing the standard uniform shirt as described below.

Member Cap

Mentioned above.

Member Vest

Mentioned above.

Member Shirt

The uniform shirt can be short or long sleeved, button front, white with epaulets. Available ready to go at www.VFWStore.org (pictured). Male (s/s PC: 768600 or l/s PC: 07085) and female (PC: 768800) shirts are available. The shirt is worn, pressed, and tucked in the pants/skirt. A white t-shirt is worn underneath. The shirt has the following specifications:



- **Sleeves** - Patches of the American Flag on the left and POW/MIA on the right. The POW/MIA is optional.
- **Chest - Left** - VFW Malta Cross embroidered above the pocket. Option to include post information, name and/or member status (i.e. Life).
- **Chest - Right** - Usually blank, members can include an embroidered patch from prior service (i.e. Navy sleeve rockers or regimental crest) (or possible VFW patch).
- **Pocket Flap - Left** - Usually blank, members can include former service ribbons or medals. If wearing medals, miniatures are recommended.
- **Pocket Flap - Right** - Usually blank, members can include the VFW Name Tag or former service qualification badges, again miniatures are recommended.
- **Collar Devices** - “VFW” brass (PC: 08130) is on the right. “688” brass is on the left. Both are aligned with the top and bottom edges of the collar (pictured).



Trousers/Skirt

Black. Preferably double knit or polyester. Females have the option of wearing a black skirt no shorter than 1 inch above or 2 inches below the crease of the back of the knee (not recommended for parades).

Belt

A black webbing, military style belt with a silver buckle and tip. Check your gig line!

Footwear

Black dress shoes/boots or combat boots. Black socks. Try to remember where your shoe polish is and use it, OK? Females may wear black pumps with a heel no greater than 3 inches. If wearing a skirt, females are recommended to wear skin tone stockings.

Winter Uniform

During cooler times of the year, a black jacket is acceptable. Also, with coordination, members may wear a black coat and tie. During inclement weather, a dark colored raincoat/winter coat is appropriate.