



An Overview of Veterans Organizations

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Definition of a Veteran



- According to <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/veteran> a veteran is defined as:
- An old soldier of long service;
- A former member of the armed forces.

Veterans Organizations in St. Mary's County

**The American Legion
Southern Maryland Post 221**
P. O. Box 98
21690 Colton's Point Rd
Avenue, MD 20680
Phone: (301) 769-4569
<http://alpost221.webs.com/>

**The American Legion
Ridge Post 255**
P. O. Box 237
13390 Point Lookout Rd
Ridge, MD 20680
Phone: (301) 872-5349
<http://mysite.verizon.net/legion255/>

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2632
23282 Three Notch Rd
P.O. Box 86
California, MD 20619
301-862-3247
<http://vfwpost2632.com/>

Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 93
P.O. Box 93
Patuxent River, MD 20670
(301) 863-8291
<http://somid.com/Detailed/1161.php>

Disabled American Veterans
St. Mary's DAV #26
PO Box 309 Hollywood, MD 20636 **Ph:** 301-
373-4927
md26mail@davfrat.org

AMVETS Post 13 (Waldorf)
2310 Old Washington Road
Waldorf, MD 20601
301-645-6331
<http://www.amvets-md.org/>

Veterans Organizations - Locations



What is The American Legion?



The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans. Focusing on service to veterans, service members, and communities, The American Legion currently has about 2.4 million members in 14,000 posts worldwide.

What about Southern Maryland American Legion Post 221?

One of 157 posts within the state of Maryland, we currently have 309 members. Our post also has an Auxiliary Unit, which assists us in furthering the goals of the national and state organizations as well as our local programs. Our local programs include:

- **Color Guard**
- **Flag Disposal**
- **Flags for 1st Graders**
- **Boys State**
- **MD Day and Blessing of the Fleet Flag Ceremonies**
- **Student Service Learning**

Auxiliary Unit 221 Programs

Americanism

- **Focus on Flag Etiquette**

- **National Essay Contest for Grades 3 through 8**

- **Children and Youth**

 - Children's Miracle Network

 - April is Children and Youth Month - Various Activities

- **Community Service**

 - Programs to create projects that make a difference in people's lives and affect not only individuals, but also entire communities

- **Girl State Program**

 - Open to High School Juniors; one week session in mid-June to learn the duties and responsibilities of citizenship

- **Membership**

 - Campaign each year to renew and recruit members

- **Poppy**

 - Memorial flower of the American Legion Auxiliary; The national symbol of sacrifice; Proceeds help fund the Veteran's Rehabilitation Programs

- **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**

 - Volunteers assist our veterans; Ice Cream Social at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

American Legion Post 221 Contact Info:

Post Office Box 98
21690 Colton's Point Road
Avenue, MD 20609-0098

Phone (301) 769-4569; alpost221@netscape.net

Website: <http://alpost221.webs.com/>

Michael F. Barbour
Commander, AL Post 221



What is The Veterans of Foreign Wars?



The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service: Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations with what would become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

What is The Fleet Reserve Association?



FRA is a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization that represents the interests of the Sea Service community before the U.S. Congress. The Association is named after the Navy's program for personnel transferring to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve after 20 or more years of active duty, but less than 30 years for retirement purposes and its membership is comprised of current and former enlisted members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

What is The Disabled American Veterans?



Since its founding more than 80 years ago, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has been dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families. Fidelity to that mission has required DAV to respond creatively and flexibly to changing and sometimes unpredictable challenges faced by its constituency. Whether disabled veterans have needed a voice on Capitol Hill, a nationwide service program, a transportation network or unique rehabilitation opportunities, DAV has focused its attention and resources to meet those needs.

What is AMVETS?



As one of America's foremost veterans service organizations, AMVETS (or American Veterans) has a proud history of assisting veterans and sponsoring numerous programs that serve our country and its citizens.

This commitment to service traces its roots back to 1948, when AMVET National Service Officers (NSO) first began helping veterans of World War II to obtain the benefits promised them by the federal government.

Note – The nearest AMVETS is in Waldorf; (301) 643-6218

Eligibility to Join?

American Legion:

- ❑ One day of honorable active service, during the designated war periods, in any one of the five military branches (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard).
- ❑ Membership eligibility dates include: Vietnam War (February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975); Lebanon & Grenada (August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984); Panama (December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990) and Gulf War (August 2, 1990, to Cessation of Hostilities as Determined by The United States Government).

VFW:

- ❑ (1) U.S. Citizen or U.S. National (2) Honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States (3) Service entitling the applicant to the award of a recognized campaign medal.

Eligibility to Join (Cont'd)?

FRA:

Be a current or former enlisted member of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.

DAV:

Any man or woman, who was wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in the line of duty during time of war, while in the service of either the military or naval forces of the United States of America, and who has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service, or who may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America is eligible for membership in the DAV.

AMVETS:

You must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States since World War II OR you must be on Active Duty, honorably discharged or a current, active duty member.

Other National Veterans Organizations

Military and Veterans Association listings can be found at:

<http://www.military.com/spouse/content/military-life/military-resources/military-and-veteran-associations.html>

Chartered Veterans Service Organizations listings can be found at:

https://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/other_services_and_resources/veterans_service_organizations/chartered_veterans_service_organizations

Summary

- Veterans organizations have been established to look out for the welfare of our veterans;
- Different veterans organizations have different criteria for membership but, generally, help all veterans;
- All veterans are encouraged to seek available resources and consider membership in at least one veterans organization!

The output of any organization is directly proportional to the inputs by its members!!!