



Department of Illinois

Fact Sheet

About us

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 sick or wounded. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them and they were left to care for themselves.

Vision

Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

Mission

To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Get in Touch

Phone: 217-529-6688

Facebook: VFW State of Illinois

Email: vfwil@vfwil.org

2024/2025 metrics

\$280,230 Service Members Assistance
\$44,676 Military Appreciation Programs

191,825 Total VFW/AUX Volunteer Hours

82 Scholarships and
\$386,918 Awarded Help A Hero
Scholarship

1,439 Voice of Democracy Student
Participation

209,000 Poppies Distributed

4,288 Patriots Pen Student
Participation

46,342 VA Claims Processed
\$102,082,288 Amount Recovered

Did You Know?

34,150 Members as of June
30, 2025

December 11,
1920 Charter Date

2025-2026
State Commander Eugene Blackwell