



# Loudoun County Post 1177

## Uniform Guide

*As of September 2017*

There are a lot of options for creativity in our uniforms. However, there are some things that need to be standardized in order to present a uniform and professional appearance. The purchase of uniform items other than the Member Cap are NOT required. All items are purchased and maintained at the member's expense. 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 [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org).

### Member Cap

The Member Cap is the most visible sign of membership in the VFW. All active members should have their Post Cover, provided as part of the initial membership dues, in clean and serviceable condition. Member Caps are required for monthly Member Meetings (or the Post Ball Cap) 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 1177" on the front right, the VFW Cross of Malta on the right side and "Virginia" 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 "Virginia" side and VFW related pins are placed on the "Cross" side. Items should be not 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 used instead of the Member Cap.

## Post Service Uniform

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

### Uniform Shirt Design

The uniform shirt is short sleeved, button front, white with epaulets. Available ready to go at VFWStore.org (pictured). Male (PC: 768600 or 07023) 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, member can include an embroidered patch from prior service (i.e. Navy sleeve rockers or regimental crest)
- **Pocket Flap - Left** - Usually blank, member 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** - Provided as part of the initial membership fee. "VFW" brass (PC: 08130) is on the right. "1177" brass is on the left. Both are aligned with the top and bottom edges of the collar (pictured). Army needs to get over the whole 45° thing.



### 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 or combat boots. Black socks. If wearing boots, blouse your trousers. 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.

## VFW Name Tag

Name tags are an optional item for post members. If interested, the lay out is as follows: The standard for post members is the gold tag. Line 1 is for your name. Line 2 reads "POST 1177". Line 3 reads "LEESBURG". Line 4 reads "VIRGINIA". 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.

## 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 red with navy stripe VFW Tie (PC: 08422) is the standard tie. 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. 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

Only the Member Cap or Post Ball Cap (available at the Post Shop) is required for the monthly member meetings. Regular civilian attire that is not offensive and appropriate for a social setting is the standard for the meeting. We are working stiffs after a long day of work. 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 or Post Ball Cap is required.

## 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 1177 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 amount of items available to its members. Most post membership 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 1177 Uniform Guide, version1
- National By-Laws, 2016
- VFWStore.org

## Questions & P.O.C.

The Point of Contact for this document is the Post Quartermaster, available at meetings or email at [qm@vfw1177.org](mailto:qm@vfw1177.org). Questions and suggestions can be emailed to the aforementioned address.