



## **The Meaning of the VFW's Cross of Malta**



**History shows that the Cross of Malta, the emblem of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is 1,000 years old. Nearly ten centuries ago, the Maltese Cross was made the symbol of fighting men who were united by a solemn pledge of comradeship to fight for freedom and to aid the sick and the needy. Those ancient obligations are still symbolized by the Cross of Malta today for two million former servicemen who are the VFW.**

**The Cross of Malta is the symbol of their battles in time of war and of their campaign to defend the God-given rights of human beings in time of peace. The Cross of Malta symbolizes the compassion, or sympathy, of those men and women for the needy. It is the sign of services, which our contemporary veterans render to help make living better for everyone.**

**Upon joining the VFW, a person vows in the presence of Almighty God and the members of this order to maintain loyalty to the government, to the VFW and to his fellow comrades. When the Cross of Malta is bestowed upon a new VFW member, he or she is pledged to advance the principles of the organization. The VFW is also joined by our Ladies Auxiliary in our efforts.**

**Together, the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary foster true patriotism and strengthen the institutions of freedom by word and deed. They improve their cities, towns and neighborhoods through community service. They give aid to worthy comrades and to the widows and orphans. They extend helping hands to the needy and the sick.**

**The Cross of Malta symbolizes truly the character and objectives of the VFW of the United States. People qualified through military service to wear the VFW Cross of Malta do so with pride because that emblem represents the highest of ideals.**

