

Presidents Message
October 2025

"Forever Serving, Veterans"

It's been 4 months since I took office in this great department, it has been very interesting. I have learned so much which I didn't know. I am enjoying what I have done.

We are doing very well with the Auxiliaries & Districts I have visited. I have visited most of the auxiliaries which don't have districts. These members are so nice and excited when the Department President comes to visit. They don't see many of us because some are so far away, but they are doing a fantastic job for us. So if you can, try and visit some of them.

Our membership is doing very well, so keep up the good work, we are getting close to our goal. Our membership chairman is doing a wonderful job, keeping you informed of the dates for the percentages.

Please use MALTA, the information we need on all of the programs is there for our use.

The Holidays are around the corner, try to visit the Veterans in the hospitals, or at home. They love when we come and visit. The Hospital Parties dates will be sent so you can attend the parties.

Remember to send your money for your Special Project Pins to our Treasurer Paula Pinto, earmarked Special Project Pins, you can also send additional donations for Cancer.

Have a Happy Halloween!

Respectfully,
Gloria Lisicki
Department President

AMERICANISM

2025-2026

Sandy Reed
732-343-1133
Vfwauxiliary7508@gmail.com

October

October is a month full of opportunities to promote Americanism!! As Auxiliary members, one of our core missions is to foster patriotism and educate our communities about our nation's history, symbols, and freedoms. This month let's take action to keep patriotism alive in our homes, schools, and communities.

Important Patriotic Dates in October:

- **October 13 – U.S. Navy Birthday (1775):** Celebrate the founding of the U.S. Navy. Consider posting a thank-you message on social media or hosting a small recognition event for Navy veterans.
 - **October 27 – Navy Day:** Another opportunity to honor those who serve and have served in the Navy. Encourage local schools or youth groups to write thank-you notes to sailors and veterans.
 - **October (First Full Week) – National Fire Prevention Week:** A great time to recognize our local first responders and connect the value of community service with American values.
-

US Americanism Project Ideas:

1. **Flag Etiquette Education:** Host a short program at a local school, library, or scout meeting about how to properly display, fold, and retire the American flag.
 2. **"I Pledge" Challenge:** Encourage children and adults alike to learn the Pledge of Allegiance — not just the words, but the meaning behind them.
 3. **Honor a Local Hero:** Present a certificate of appreciation to a veteran, teacher, police officer, firefighter, or community leader who embodies American values.
 4. **Social Media Patriotism:** Share daily or weekly patriotic facts, quotes from Founding Fathers, or U.S. historical moments on your Auxiliary's social media pages.
-

Remember:

Patriotism isn't just about waving the flag — it's about teaching the next generation the values of freedom, service, and respect. Whether through a classroom presentation, a community event, or a small act of gratitude, each of us has the power to inspire pride in our great nation.

****Take pictures, update your checklist and send them to me!**

Forever Serving Veterans

Auxiliary Outreach

Nobody can argue the power of music to heal the soul. Guitars 4 Vets, a national 501(c)3, strives to alleviate the symptoms of our soldiers' PTSD and depression by connecting them to others and their surroundings with music. The group formed in 2007, when guitar teacher, Patrick Nettesheim, and Vietnam-era Marine, Dan VanBuskirk, realized that their recent collaboration could provide healing for our nation's military.

G4V volunteers provide weekly lessons for veterans. Monthly gatherings at each chapter connect military folks with similar experiences. They also provide a space to learn how to engage with peers and show off their new skills. The sense of accomplishment, freedom of expression, and camaraderie are priceless. The research shows the proof. A study revealed that G4V facilitated a 21% improvement in PTSD symptoms and a 27% decrease in depression.

I recently explored how you can help as an Auxiliary member. In addition to instructors, G4V occasionally needs help with fundraising events that support the program. There are G4V chapters in Lakewood NJ, Philadelphia, PA, and at our Lyons VA hospital. Please explore G4V and get more information on volunteering here:

<https://guitars4vets.org/> <https://guitars4vets.org/volunteer-guidelines/>
Lakewood, NJ also has a Facebook page that can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064829435888>

Yours in Service,
Kathleen Shanahan
NJ VFWA Auxiliary Outreach 25/26
shanahank2@gmail.com
201-410-6814

"BUDDY" © POPPY / VFW NATIONAL HOME

October 2025



Kathleen Reichenbach
7 Ashley Road
Whiting, NJ 08759
732-740-1526
kreich325@gmail.com



October 2025

Soooo I hope we are all out there making our "Buddy" Poppy very visible to the public. You all know that saying I'm sure, "Out of sight out of mind". We never want the sacrifices of our Veterans to be forgotten. We promised! So get out there in the Community with those Poppies and use them in decorating at your post. Making Trick or Treat Bags for Veterans in local nursing homes? Use a Poppy to secure that bag they will love seeing it.

Now let's wake up our brains with a few questions.

Q. What is the "Buddy" Poppy?

A. It is the VFW's official flower representing the blood shed by our soldiers. It serves as a reminder to never forget their sacrifices.

Q. Do others help the VFW and the Auxiliary with the "Buddy" Poppy distribution?

A. Yes, other organizations and youth groups (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts for example), may help. This also helps with educating our youth about the cause

Q. Why are the "Buddy" Poppies so IMPORTANT?

A. Through the distribution of Poppies, we raise funds which can only be used for Veteran's welfare or their dependents.



Forever Serving Veterans.....



VFW NATIONAL HOME



3574 S Waverly Rd.
Easton Rapids, MI 48827
Donations 866-483-9642.
For Help 800-313-4200
help@vfwnationalhome.org
General 800-424-8360
info@vfwnationalhome.org



October 2025

In an attempt to familiarize myself with the New Jersey Home by what you might call a homework assignment initiated by my Ambassador for this program; I came across information that was very saddening. At the end of this year NJ VFW will no longer be sponsoring the New Jersey Home. This does not mean the VFW National Home no longer needs New Jersey's help. There are many needs at this campus that would benefit from our continued help. We are Jersey strong; we just need to focus on directing that strength to another area. Go to National Home Website and you will see through the many pictures they post, how our monies are used and greatly appreciated. It shines through the smiles on the children's faces.

Consider purchasing a 4 x 8 Tribute Brick commemorating your Auxiliary's hard work and cement a lasting connection with the VFW National Home for \$100. In addition, you will receive a commemorative certificate.



Another **great** way to show our Jersey strength keep your donations coming for the

Whitmore's Warriors
Class of 2025-2026 Project
Let's Do More
To Stock the Store

Forever Serving Veterans.....



Whitmore's Warriors Class of 2025-2026 Project



LET'S DO MORE
STOCK THE STORE

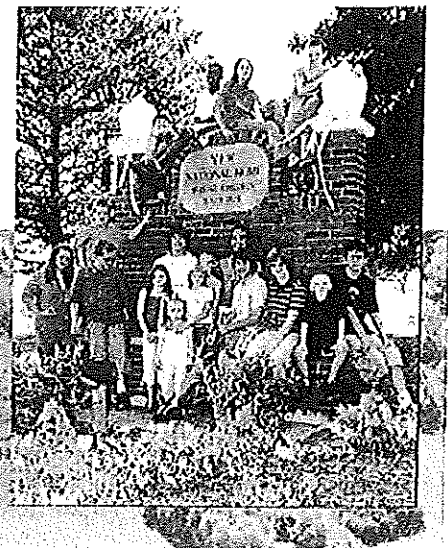
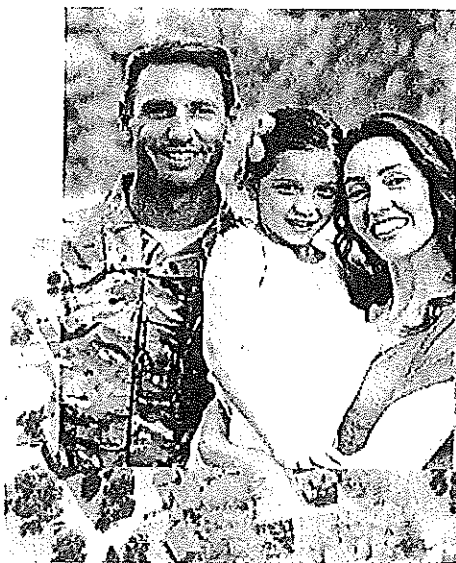


V F W
NATIONAL HOME

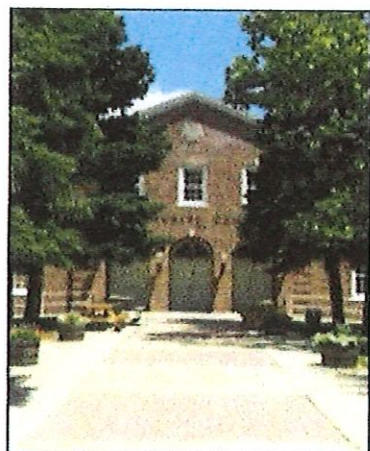


Whitmore / Callahan 2025 / 2026

Store Equipment (Refrigerators, freezers, etc and Food)
Consists of purchasing equipment for the retail section including coolers and freezers for fresh and frozen food, and beverages, dry goods and other sundries that are deemed most useful to residents. This fundraiser will also purchase an honor system point of sale program that allows residents to enter the store with a swipe card, pick out items and pay for them with a credit or debit card both during and after business hours.



Make Your Gift A Lasting Memorial!



VFW National Home's Brick Campaign lets you send a special tribute, inspiring message, or create a permanent legacy of caring.

Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$100. Proceeds provide much-needed revenue for our daily operations.

Simply print and complete the form below and return it with your gift of \$100 per brick.

You may also purchase a brick on our website at vfwnationalhome.org/brick. To learn more, call 866-483-9642 or email info@vfwnationalhome.org.

☐ **YES!** I would like to dedicate a commemorative brick, etched with this message:

The message is limited to 3 rows of 18 characters each, including spaces and punctuation. We reserve the right to edit the text if the number of characters exceeds this limit.

☐ I have enclosed my tax-deductible gift of \$100, made payable to VFW National Home.

☐ Please charge \$100 to my:

☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

NAME

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

APARTMENT/SUITE #

CARD NUMBER

CITY

STATE

ZIP

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE



V F W
NATIONAL HOME

Thank you! Return this form with your gift to:

VFW National Home

3573 South Waverly Rd. • Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 USA

tel 866-483-9642 • vfwnationalhome.org/brick • email info@vfwnationalhome.org

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION OCTOBER 2025-2026

Hi everyone it saddens me to say that we have lost quite a few Auxiliaries already this year, but new ones are in the works.

If you feel that your Auxiliary needs a little help to go from a yellow flag to a green flag or more help to go from a red flag to a green flag there are ways to help you. A healthy Auxiliary is the best way to serve our Veterans and their families.

There are many ways to check if your Auxiliary is a yellow or red flag. Does your Auxiliary meet the 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary?

- Your Auxiliary should have ten (10) meetings a year with at least five (5) members for a quorum;
- Dues should be paid for at least ten (10) members before February 1 of the current year;
- Quarterly audits need to be done & submitted to the Dept. Treasurer;
- Officers elected, installed and reported to National no later than June 30;
- The office of President and Treasurer must be bonded by August 31.

Do you need help with any of these essentials? I am always available to assist you just reach out to me.

Until next time FROM Sea to Shining Sea let's Honor our Veterans, while Forever Serving Veterans. Happy Fishing.

RECRUIT – RECRUIT – RECRUIT – RETAIN – RETAIN – RETAIN

Extension & Revitalization Chairman/Chief of Staff

Margaret Russo

jerseymom1207@aol.com

732-887-7947

Historian/Social Media

Mary Ryan Sandman

176 Patty Bowker Rd

Tabernacle, NJ 08088

(609) 456 – 1774

maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

Over the last 2 months, I have talked about the aspects of the Historian/Social Media program. This month I am going to talk about the newest portion of the program.....Reels.

First, what is a Reel? Reels are the videos at the top of your Facebook and Instagram feeds.



Reels are full-screen, vertical videos up to 90 seconds long. They include editing tools, audio tracks. You can also add captions, stickers, and backgrounds. You can use photos, multiple video clips. There is a range of filters and more.

Last month, I told you about the Meta Business Suite. And how you can post to Facebook and Instagram at the same time. This also applies to Reels.

Don't forget to add descriptions and hashtags!

Reels Best Practices

1. Don't overcomplicate things. Keep It Simple.
2. Entertain your Audience with short, sharp, funny clips.
3. Make them Informative
4. Don't make it too long. Remember the max length is 90 seconds.

Reels Don'ts

1. Don't add music that is not in the library, unless you have copyright permission.
2. Don't use dated references.
3. Don't lack a storyline.
4. Don't repurpose watermarked content.
5. Don't create content that goes against Community Guidelines. Stay within Community Guidelines.

In this mailing, you will see a detailed update about the Department website.

On another note:

Our old Facebook page (the one that was suspended), has been deleted by Facebook. I do still have access to it, so I can remove everything from it.

Important Links

VFW Auxiliary

www.vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary NJ

www.vfwauxnj.org

Facebook

VFW Auxiliary Department of New Jersey

IG

www.instagram.com/vfwadeptnj/

Hospital Communications October 2025

Barbara Wiener

barb.wiener@yahoo.com

201 6th St. N. Brigantine NJ 08203

609-464-1791

Let's talk about Hospital Programs. Your Auxiliary can establish relationships with not only VA facilities, but also hospitals, Nursing homes, Veterans homes, and any other medical facility that a veteran is housed.

Many of these facilities that house veterans can all use your help. Examples, making items such as lap blankets, hats, cards, etc. Get your Auxiliary together and plan a craft day, bring cards and play rummy or go fish, go in the mid-morning and bring coffee and donuts and just sit and chat. The possibilities are limitless.

The holidays are arriving very quickly, and your presence is crucial to some of these veterans who don't have any family. The smaller nursing homes are the ones that seem to be on the back burner. Even a home with 1 vet is a home to be visited.

HOURS ARE EARNED IN ALL VA AND NON-VA FACILITIES.

Please remember to send in your hours, attached is the form.

Also remember the Honors Escort program. I am still collecting casket flags to hand out to any nursing home that wants to have this very honorable event. I will be getting a class together soon for any HR director that would like to start this program in their facility.

Any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Hospital & VAVS Activity Report

Please mail/email this report within 30 days of any activity to

Barbara Wiener 201 6th St. N. Brigantine NJ 08203 barb.wiener@yahoo.com

Auxiliary President _____ Date _____

Auxiliary Name & Number _____

Auxiliary Chairman _____ Phone Number _____

If the Event was held by a Hospital Representative and not an Auxiliary

Hospital Rep Name _____ Date _____

LIST THE NAMES OF ANY VOLUNTEERS ON THE BACK OF THE SHEET

Section 1 – Items or Money Donated to Hospital

Name of Hospital the donation was made _____

Date of Donation _____ Approx Dollar Amt. _____

Section 2 – Hospital Party, Non-sponsored Hospital parties or any other activity

Name of Hospital/Facility the Party was held _____

Type of Activity _____

NUMBER of VOLUNTEERS _____ **Number of Hours** _____

Number of Students _____ **Number of Hours** _____

Section 3 – Reporting Regularly Scheduled Volunteers

Name of Volunteer _____

Name of Hospital/Facility _____

Total Hours for this Report _____ Dates Volunteered _____

Does this Volunteer qualify for a Hospital Service Pin----Yes _____ No _____

Total Number of Projects for this Report _____

Total Number of **Members** that participated _____

Hours worked this report _____ Total Miles Traveled _____ Total dollar value _____

For non-sponsored hospitals, please provide proof for credit

Paramus Home

Our Paramus residents recently enjoyed a visit from Saddle Brook Girl Scouts Troops 96819 and 97822! The young ladies put together a lovely afternoon tea complete with sweet treats, UNO, and manicures. I asked the girls to assist with the event and they stepped right up. They adorned the ladies with fancy pearl necklaces, hats, and boas. This event was to be sponsored by our Department Auxiliary, but the girls wouldn't hear of it. They used their cookie money to purchase supplies for the special day. Of course, our residents' smiles lit up the room as they interacted with these young ladies. It truly was a magical day.

If your Auxiliary needs a few extra hands to put on an event at one of our VA hospitals, don't forget to look to the youth volunteers in your community. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, confirmation classes, and National Honor Society students are always looking for service hours. It is a particular joy to see these young people interact with our senior veterans.

As your Paramus representative, I look to put events like this on throughout the year to provide cheer to our senior vets. Please help me do so by taking a look at the Wish List I've put together for this year's Hospital Program at Paramus.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/112LEL732TXOG?ref=wl_share

Our next Department event at Paramus will be the Army Band on November 9 @ 2pm. Our Christmas party is December 13 @ 2pm.

Finally, I'd like to thank Auxiliary 3484 for providing an entertainer to delight our Paramus veterans this past August! Everyone rocked out to Ali McDowel, a talented performer.

Contact me if you would like to find out about sponsoring Ali or another of our favorite artists at Paramus.

Yours in Service,
Kathleen Shanahan
NJ VFWA Paramus Rep
201-410-6814





Paramus Home Christmas Party

December 13, 2025 @ 2pm

Paramus Veteran Memorial Home

1 Veterans Way

Paramus, NJ 07652

Refreshments and entertainment.

Department of NJ VFW/VFWA



VFW/VFWA DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
ANNUAL VETERANS HAVEN SOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025
5 PM TO 7 PM
301 Spring Garden Rd
Winslow, NJ 08036

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Time to share some holiday cheer with the residents of VHS!

We need volunteers to serve, make side salads and holiday desserts!
and,

If your Auxiliary need any gift ideas the following items are always appreciated:
Triple & Double A batteries alarm clocks fabric dryer sheets pillows socks
gift cards blankets sanitizing wipes show flip flops

Also popular are individually wrapped snacks to take to their rooms, like cookies, candy, peanut butter and crackers or tuna and crackers, nuts, cakes, etc.

Any questions - please call!

Denise Beckler
Dept of NJ VFWA Veterans Haven South Rep
denise.beckler@aol.com 856-448-3501 (can call or text)



Barb Wiener <barb.wiener@yahoo.com>

9/26/2025 8:42 PM

Christmas parties

To Gloria Lisicki <glisicki@comcast.net> • minniehillercousins@gmail.com <minniehillercousins@gmail.com> • yzirrith@gmail.com <yzirrith@gmail.com>

Good evening Commander Yvonne, Madame President Gloria, and Surgeon Minnie
Here is a list of the upcoming Christmas Parties. The only one that has'nt booked yet is East Orange. As soon as I get a date, I will inform everyone.

Vet Haven South--Dec 4--5pm

Paramus--Dec. 13--1pm

Vineland Memorial Home--Dec 12--11am

Vet Haven North--Dec 20--11am

Menlo Park--Dec 21--2pm.

Hope to see you all there. Any quesions, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you

Barbara Wiener

Dept. Hospital Coordinator

LEGISLATION
PROGRAM
OCTOBER, 2025

It has been a very busy month for Congress. If you receive the VFW Action Corp weekly, you will see that House passed H.R.3838, *Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026*, with a bipartisan vote of 231-196. Included in Section 562 is the *TAP Promotion Act*, which is a top priority for the VFW to ensure that transitioning service members have direct access to accredited representatives for VA claims assistance to enable prompt receipt of earned benefits. This inclusion reflects the VFW's ongoing advocacy efforts to streamline the benefits process and support successful reintegration into civilian life and careers. This legislation also authorizes a 3.8% pay raise for service members and allocates funds to increase military readiness end strength by approximately 26,000 troops in 2026, together with 14 other Bills. Now on to the Senate. Also attached please find a response from Senator Andy Kim in response to an Alert which was sent to every person who subscribes to the VFW Action Corp. weekly. Let's keep up the good work with responding to Alerts.

Also attached please find a copy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities for the Fall Conference together with a QR Code for your use. The Legislative Priorities which is self-explanatory, and easy to follow showing the concerns in a number of forums.

The VFW has also provided a new Join Action Corps QR Code for help in signing up to receive it. Please pass out the new code at your Auxiliary and District meetings to every one. Encourage them to sign up and to stay abreast of what is happening in the House and Senate, and when an Alert comes through to follow through with it and to send it to our legislators. If you have any questions, I am only a phone call or email away.

Yours in Service

Lynn Malone
NJ VFWA Legislative Chair 25/26
908-578-0440
Lynmal1@aol.com

Subject: **Responding to your message**
Date: 9/22/2025 9:28:11 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: andy@kim.senate.gov
To: lynmall@aol.com

SENATOR
Andy Kim
— \$ —

Dear Mrs. Malone,

Thank you for reaching out to me with your concerns about veterans' access to affordable housing. The simple promise we make as a country is that if someone steps up to protect us, our families, and our nation's security, we will have their backs for the rest of their lives. This promise is one that we as a nation have not always kept, and I am trying to fix that so our veterans and their families receive the benefits they have earned. I want to take a moment to share some of the work that I've been doing to achieve that.

Too many of our veterans return home and are not given the support they need. This is devastating and has terrible impacts. As of January 2024, for example, 32,882 veterans were experiencing homelessness in the U.S. — this is wholly unacceptable. Even more, far too often, policies have been in place that exclude veterans from receiving the support and assistance that they need. This needs to change.

As a member of the Senate's Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, I have been laser-focused on ways to meet the housing crisis for all Americans — and specifically for veterans. I was proud to support a package of bills that included several key provisions to address these issues. To start, too many veterans are unaware of the benefits that they are entitled to. This package would increase transparency and ensure that veterans know what they are entitled to. Even more concerning, disabled veterans have been systemically kept out of support because their disability payments are calculated as income that disqualifies them for support. This is wrong — and this package includes a provision that would permanently exclude veteran disability payments from being included in their annual income calculations, which would help ensure that more homeless veterans have access to VA housing.

Our veterans have given so much to our country, we must honor their sacrifices and work to ensure that they receive the support that they have earned. Please know I will continue using my voice in the Senate to advance policies that uplift and support all veterans.

Thank you again for contacting me. It is a privilege and an honor to serve the people of New Jersey, and to act as your voice in Washington, D.C. I hope that you will continue to keep in touch on issues of concern. If I can ever be of assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me.

To learn more about my work in the Senate, please visit my website at kim.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

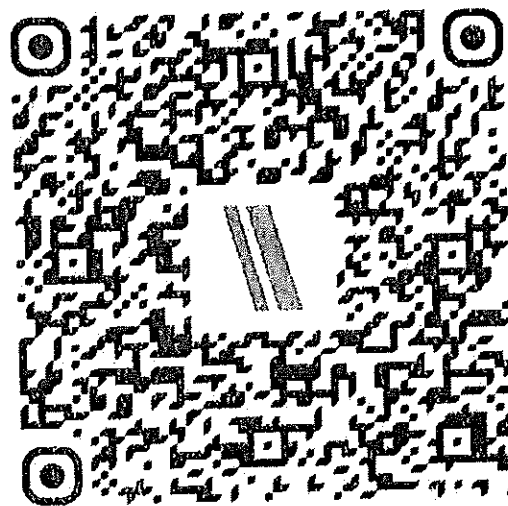
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Kim", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Andy Kim
United States Senator

Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



Fall Legislative Conference
Washington, D.C
September 7-11, 2025

Visit us at: www.vfw.org/LegislativePriorities

Community Care Reform

The VFW's Concern:

While community care is a necessary component of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care, administrative barriers prevent veterans from receiving timely, high-quality services. Despite seeing some improvements with the passage of the *VA MISSION Act of 2018* (Public Law 115-182), veterans still face confusing eligibility rules, delayed referrals, billing disputes, and inconsistent communication and coordination. These challenges are especially harmful for those in rural areas who rely heavily on community providers. Growing numbers of women veterans depend on community care for specialty care including mammograms, maternity services, and fertility treatment. Veterans in mental health crises may require immediate inpatient services outside of VA facilities. Additionally, veterans living overseas—many of whom support American military or diplomatic interests—face additional barriers when attempting to access VA health care through the Foreign Medical Program (FMP). This program currently restricts eligibility to those with service-connected disabilities or participation in rehabilitation programs, and requires veterans to seek out their own providers and apply for reimbursement. This uncoordinated care leaves many abroad without reliable access to medical services and poses unnecessary risks to national security.

For these reasons, the VFW strongly supports strengthening oversight, transparency, and coordination of these programs to ensure veterans receive clear information about eligibility, referrals, and scheduling, and to ensure community providers receive timely payments to maintain a strong network. The VFW also seeks to modernize the FMP by expanding eligibility to all veterans abroad, removing barriers tied to disability status or rehabilitation, modernizing payment systems, and exploring provider networks outside the United States. The combined result would improve health care coordination, reduce treatment delays, prevent gaps in care, and ensure that veterans in the states or overseas have timely access to services in their local communities.

The VFW Urges Congress to:

Pass H.R.740 / S.275, *Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025*, to ensure veterans receive clear information and timely health care by improving the efficiency, oversight, and coordination of VA's community care program.

Pass H.R.467, *Foreign Medical Program Modernization Act of 2025*, to expand access to health care for veterans living abroad by modernizing reimbursement systems and strengthening global care options.

Note: For H.R.740 cosponsorship, please email Matt Brennan at matt.brennan@mail.house.gov.

For S.275 cosponsorship, please email Jase Rapert at jase_rapert@moran.senate.gov.

For H.R.467 cosponsorship, please email Noah Garber at noah.garber@mail.house.gov.

Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments

The VFW's Concern:

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), more than 40 percent of veterans in the VA system have a service-connected disability rating for mental health. The VFW acknowledges the growing need for alternative treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)/mental health conditions. Currently, veterans seeking mental health care are predominantly directed to two types of medications—selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)—as well as various evidence-based therapies to reduce PTSD symptoms. Veterans have expressed to the VFW their concern that VA may be overprescribing these medications for mental health conditions. While today's standard treatments are successful for some individuals, many report experiencing only temporary relief of symptoms, adverse side effects, and difficulties when going off medications. To ensure patient safety, the VFW urges VA to provide written informed consent to all veterans before starting long-term treatment with psychiatric medications, so they fully understand potential risks, benefits, and alternatives.

With nearly 2.5 million veterans using VA mental health services, it has the unique capacity to lead the nation in advancing innovative treatments. Just as VA pioneered telemedicine, cardiovascular care, and prosthetics, it can now do the same for PTSD care. Because not all treatments work for everyone, the VFW urges Congress and VA to research and provide alternative, non-conventional solutions for veterans. Some such treatments that have shown potential include stellate ganglion block, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, ketamine infusion, MDMA-assisted therapy, medical cannabis, and other plant-based alternative therapies.

The VFW Urges Congress to:

Pass H.R.4837, *Written Informed Consent Act*, to expand informed consent requirements to include five additional medication categories to ensure veterans are fully aware of the risks and benefits of these medications.

Pass H.R.2623, *Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025*, to designate five VA medical centers as specialized hubs focusing on cutting-edge PTSD treatments for veterans.

Note: For H.R.4837 cosponsorship, please email Tyler Zidlicky at tyler.zidlicky@mail.house.gov.

For H.R.2623 cosponsorship, please email Alicia Seagraves at alicia.seagraves@mail.house.gov.

Retirement and Military Personnel

The VFW's Concern:

For more than two decades, Congress has failed to address the long-standing injustice of withholding military retirement pay from disabled veterans. Department of Defense (DOD) military retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation are separate, distinct benefits earned for different reasons, yet Congress continues to wrongly treat their concurrent receipt as "double-dipping." The VFW believes this policy is fundamentally unfair, and it is far past time for Congress to act.

In 2004, Congress authorized full concurrent receipt for veterans with at least 20 years of service and a 50 percent service-connected disability rating or higher. While this was a positive step, the VFW believes the 50 percent threshold is arbitrary and unjust. Veterans rated below 50 percent still endure sacrifices, risks, and challenges, yet they are excluded from full benefits with no reasonable explanation. This exclusion has left many veterans frustrated and feeling abandoned by the very system that should be supporting them.

Additionally, veterans who medically retire under Chapter 61, including combat-injured and ill veterans, continue to suffer due to the offset of their retirement pay and disability compensation. More than 50,000 Chapter 61 retirees, including those who need ongoing care and support, do not have full access to their vested retirement pay and service-connected disability compensation, creating financial hardship for them and their families.

Congress must act now to end the policy of offsetting benefits, fulfill its promises, and prevent further harm to disabled veterans. The cost of full concurrent receipt is far outweighed by the moral obligation to honor their sacrifices. The VFW calls on the 119th Congress to pass legislation that will show them their service is truly valued. Every year of delay only deepens the financial and emotional toll on these veterans who have already given so much to this country.

The VFW Urges Congress to:

Pass S.1032 / H.R.2102, *Major Richard Star Act*, either as a standalone bill or via the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (proposed Senate Amendment 2968) to enable Chapter 61 retirees who sustained combat-related injuries to receive their vested DOD retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset.

Pass legislation to eliminate any offset of DOD military retirement pay and VA disability compensation.

Transition from Service

The VFW's Concern:

Leaving military service is often complicated by service-related ailments, family needs, loss of identity and support networks, and the required training to enter a new career field. Sadly, the initial year following discharge also comes with increased suicide risk among veterans, heightening the need to ensure all transitioning service members are connected to post-service benefits and resources as quickly as possible.

One of the best resources to utilize are accredited representatives who can help with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) claims. These representatives can be from the national, state, or local level. Through BDD, service members can file expedited claims and complete medical evaluations before leaving service, enabling VA to provide disability ratings upon discharge. Receiving accelerated claims decisions means BDD participants are better able to minimize gaps in essential care like mental health counseling and medication management once they officially leave service.

In early 2024, VA launched its improved curriculum of VA benefits and services covered during Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classes. TAP 6.0 includes having an accredited representative physically present to assist service members with filing their BDD claims. Data shows this initiative has been effective in increasing the number of transitioning service members receiving their benefits upon discharge. It also has the potential to positively affect factors that can contribute to the downward spiral toward suicide, thereby saving lives.

The VFW would like to see this practice codified into law and made permanent. Since this is a current VA program, we anticipate this legislative fix would be cost neutral.

The VFW Urges Congress to:

Pass H.R.1845, *TAP Promotion Act*, either as a standalone bill or via the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026 (Section 551 of the House NDAA) to codify VA's practice of including accredited claims representatives from national, state, and local organizations in TAP classes.

Note: For cosponsorship, please email Colin Hawkins at colin.hawkins@mail.house.gov.

Other Areas of Concern

Unaddressed Toxic Exposures

Veterans frequently contact the VFW about toxic exposures not included in the *Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022* (Public Law 117-168). Examples include but are not limited to water contamination at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and those who served as air crews, nuclear technicians, and submariners. This legislation established an enduring framework for a presumption decision process to guide the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ongoing, systematic evaluation of toxic exposures. Ensuring transparency and accountability in these evaluations requires consistent congressional oversight.

The VFW urges Congress to conduct oversight hearings to ensure VA's transparency and compliance in administering the PACT Act's presumption decision process.

Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies

While the VFW respects the right of veterans to choose who assists with VA disability compensation claims, we remain deeply concerned about unaccredited actors who exploit earned benefits. These entities we call Claim Sharks often charge veterans exorbitant fees for services that are otherwise available at no cost. They suggest that their high volume of business makes them more effective than accredited representatives and falsely imply that their involvement can secure faster decisions or higher disability ratings. The VFW supports legislative efforts that require VA accreditation for anyone assisting with the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of claims; any associated fees to be reasonable and never put veterans into debt; and safeguards to protect against unaccredited, predatory actors.

The VFW urges Congress to pass legislation to truly prohibit the exploitation of veterans by unscrupulous Claim Sharks and strengthen the VA accreditation system, and to oppose legislation like H.R.3132, *CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025*, that would put veterans seeking their earned benefits into debt.

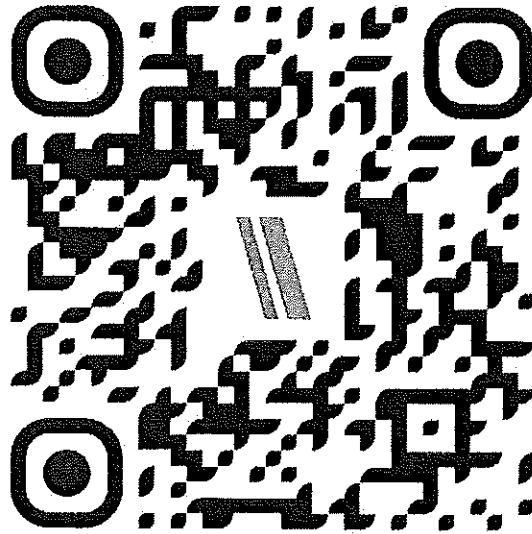
GI Bill Improvements

Despite an increase in deployments since September 11, 2001, National Guard and Reserve members do not always earn their VA education benefits at the same rate as active duty service members. Currently, Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility is based on active duty service for at least 90 days. Initial skills and training periods are deemed non-qualifying service for those in the reserve components, and full-time National Guard service and certain responses to national emergencies do not qualify. In addition, the book stipend associated with the Post-9/11 GI Bill has not been increased since 2009, and students in online learning programs currently receive a housing stipend rate that is only half the national average.

The VFW urges Congress to pass H.R.1423 / S.649, *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025*, to create equity for National Guard and Reserve members by allowing any day in uniform for which military pay is received to count toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility; H.R.1965, *Veteran Education Assistance Adjustment Act*, to increase the book stipend from \$1,000 to \$1,400 for veterans using Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits, and include annual increases for the stipend based on the Consumer Price Index; and H.R.3753, *Expanding Access for Online Veteran Students Act*, to increase the monthly housing stipend to the full national average rate for students in approved online courses of study.

NEW CODE

JOIN VFW ACTION CORPS



Special Project

Mary Ryan Sandman

176 Patty Bowker Rd

Tabernacle, NJ 08088

(609) 456 - 1774

maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

National Joint Special Project

Several years ago, a General Store was built on the campus of the VFW National Home. As many of you know the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan is in the middle of nowhere. This is both positive and negative. The positive – those needing treatment can focus on what they need to. The negative – the closest market is a 40 minute drive.

This year National Commander Carol Whitmore and National President Lois Callahan have chosen for their Joint Project is to “Stock The Store”. They are looking for financial donations to purchase shelving units, refrigerators, freezers., etc. Please do not send these units to the National Home! Donations can be sent through MALTA!

National President's Special Project

National President Lois Callahan has chosen for her Special Project to raise funds for the Continuing Education Scholarships. Currently four (4) scholarships (1 to each Conference) of \$2,500 each. Donations for this program can be made through MALTA.

Department President's Special Project

As you know Department President has chosen for her Special Project Pediatric Cancer Research through The Rutgers Cancer Institute.

As we know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but it is also Liver Cancer Awareness Month.

Liver Cancer is the 6th most common worldwide affecting almost 900,000 people per year. It is the 5th most common among men and the 8th most common among women. The average age of Liver Cancer diagnosis is between 63 and 69. And is confirmed through bloodwork.

Risk factors include Hepatitis B and C, alcohol abuse, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and gallstones.

October 17th is National Mammography Day. Have you had or scheduled your Mammogram for this year?

As with all cancers, if something doesn't seem right, please contact your doctor.

Early detection is key.



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2025 – 2026
October 2025 Communication

Chairman Denise Beckler 856-448-3501 (can text) denise.beckler@aol.com
12 Wright Ave. Stratford, NJ 08084



Congratulations to those Auxiliaries that hit the 80% incentive by August 31 and 90% by September 30 – great job!! These awards will be given out at Fall Conference.

As we go into the Fall months and your Auxiliaries host or attend autumn festivals; pig roasts and area events, don't miss out on a membership drive opportunity! Set up a table with information on our organization – a lot of info can be printed off MALTA. Hand out applications or give out a small postcard sized flyer that has the Membership QR code on it, for them to look at later when they have time. Don't miss out on any opportunity to bring in new members!



As for current members – get those reminders out! And all these activities is a great time to try to get a member out and helping out! Holding a pig roast, reach out and ask if they can make a bowl of pasta salad or a batch of cookies. Haven't seen a member in a while, reach out and give them a call to let them hear your voice and show you care about them.

Reaching out is the same as casting that fishing line to bring in new members – that same fishing line can pull current members back into participating.

Keep up the great work and I hope to give away lots of money for the next incentive: \$50 to your Auxiliary if you reach 100% by December 31!!

And don't forget the "I reeled in" Just One cards – there will be a drawing at Fall Conference!

There's also the "One that didn't get away" Just One Life member drawing at Department Convention – if you recruit a NEW Life Member, your name will go into a \$50 drawing!



"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free"

"Forever Serving Veterans"



VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment

How to Engage Your New Members from the Start

The key to retaining new members is to ensure that they are receiving value from their VFW Auxiliary membership and that they are aware of the value they are receiving. Engaging with your members on a regular basis to communicate this value to them helps keep it fresh in their mind, and reminds them of why they became members in the first place. Studies on new members of any organization show that the first three months are critical to engaging that member and therefore keeping that member.

Here is a timeline to help you and your Auxiliary engage its new members during the first three months:

Within the first week: Call or e-mail the new member introducing yourself. Offer your contact information should that new member have any questions. If your Auxiliary has a website or Facebook page, tell them about it so they can see what's going on.

Within the first month: Invite the new member as soon as possible to whatever event is coming up next, whether it be a meeting or something else. Offer to pick him or her up. Or if it's a family event, be sure to say that anyone can come. They might feel more comfortable coming with their family or friend.

Because people are very busy these days, be sure to send a reminder at least three days out from the event.

At the event or if they come to the Post home for a social event, there is ONE THING you can do when they step through that door. If the new member says "How can I help?" stop right then and there and find a way for them to help. DO NOT tell them, "Oh, don't worry, I've got it." Even if you are peeling potatoes and you're almost done, let them peel the potatoes!

Immediately following the event, send an e-mail or handwritten note saying you're glad they came.

Within the first two months: Your Auxiliary will most likely have a meeting within this time period. Specifically invite a new member and save them a seat. Have a copy of "Understanding VFW Auxiliary Traditions" printed out and explain each of the items on it. Much of it will be entirely new to them.

Within the first three months: Scheduling is difficult, but try to meet up for coffee or drinks, and see if the new member has any questions about what they have been involved with so far. If they have a family, consider having them over for dinner. Have a copy of the Bylaws available in case a question comes up that you can't answer.

The goal with each of these steps is to maintain contact with a new member in order to engage him or her. Once you have engaged that member and extended that hand of friendship, continue to nurture that relationship. There is so much to learn, and learning it from a friend is the best way to develop future Auxiliary leaders.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment

Engaging Existing Members

Attracting new members to your Auxiliary is critical, but never underestimate the importance of engaging existing members. What keeps them coming back? Think of your members as your best customers, and work hard to deliver an experience that keeps them engaged and excited about the VFW Auxiliary. Engaged members are more likely to stay with your Auxiliary, so be sure to show your appreciation regularly. Also, make sure that they have a variety of options for getting involved and staying active.

Here are some suggestions for engaging existing Auxiliary members:

- Make members feel appreciated by recognizing their achievements and celebratory occasions such as membership milestones (for example, a 10-year member), work promotions, anniversaries, or birthdays.
- Develop a formal mentor program for involved members to support less active or new members.
- Receive regular feedback from members to confirm that they are experiencing the benefits they were promised when they joined.
- Encourage members to serve on committees that suit their skills or interests.
- Give members a clear sense of your Auxiliary's long-range goals and vision.
- Invite them to attend a District or Department meeting or training event.
- Keep an up-to-date list of service projects, and have members take turns leading projects that interest them.
- Feature photographs of your members at recent Auxiliary service projects and events on your website, Facebook page, and in newsletters in order to recognize their contributions.
- Update members regularly on progress toward Auxiliary goals as a way to build loyalty, pride, and an understanding of the need for long-term involvement.

Scholarships

Carolyn Rovito
251 Church Street, Apt. 1
Lodi, New Jersey 07644
201-233-7010
Crovito.2@gmail.com

A heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication and hard work in helping your Posts conduct the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests! Your efforts have provided students in our communities with meaningful opportunities to express their patriotism and learn about the value of democracy.

These contests' deadlines are quickly approaching. The submissions are due to the Post by October 31st. Offer to assist your Post with judging of these contests to further your partnership.

Your commitment to supporting these programs helps nurture the next generation of leaders and encourages civic engagement among our youth. Let's keep the momentum going! Participation from Auxiliary members like you truly makes a difference. Whether you assist with organizing, judging, or promoting these contests, your involvement is the key to their continued success.

Thank you for all you do to support our mission, serve our veterans, and inspire the youth of New Jersey. Together, we are building a stronger community and fostering patriotic values that last a lifetime.

Forever Serving Veterans

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

October 2025

Terri Andryszczak
24 Beech Street
Kearny, NJ 07032
Phone: 732-322-9970
Email: vfwpost1302aux@gmail.com

UPDATE!! Uniting to Combat Hunger has evolved to Uniting for Veterans!

On August 11, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio, the VFW and Humana (an ally in this vital initiative since inception in 2018) announced the name change. This reflects the ever-expanding scope and united commitment to addressing the diverse and evolving needs of the military and veteran communities.

The program will offer greater flexibility in providing comprehensive assistance beyond the initial focus on food insecurity and housing. "This includes a broader array of support tailored to help increase its VFW Posts and Auxiliaries' impact in their local veteran communities".

With the announcement, leaders highlighted how much support has been provided - more than 800,000 meals and 325 nights of housing for homeless veterans. But, the needs of the military and veteran communities are constantly changing, and the program recognizes the necessity of adapting to offer additional support. Hence, "the name change better suits this ever-expanding mission and dedication to provide responsive and comprehensive assistance through our Posts and Auxiliaries that truly adapt with the needs of our veterans and their families".

The director from Humana, Cara Brown, stated that Humana is proud to stand with the VFW in this program as it will allow to collectively address a wider spectrum of needs and to help improve the quality of life of our military and veteran families. The increased flexibility of combined efforts will make a profound, positive impact for those that served and their loved ones.

For more information regarding the expanded Uniting for Veterans and to support this vital mission, please go the VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/uniting-for-veterans>





Happy Halloween

It's time for Halloween, your Auxiliary and Post could Host a Trunk or Treat event for children in your community. Its safe and doesn't involve a lot of work. Get together and in your parking lot hold this event and advertise through local social media or involve your town. Have fun and enjoy. If you don't have a large parking lot, then use the same concept and set up tables with goodies for the kids. Take pictures and report it.

Working with Youth Groups

Find out what your local Youth groups are doing and see if you can volunteer your time or give a small donation to help these youth with their endeavors and help them out.



Illustrating America

Now is the time to start getting out the word of our Art contest for our younger students. Contact your local schools and art schools of this contest that is available. Deadline is March 31, 2026. Use your social media and The Patch to promote this contest.



Book of the Month Patriotism through Literacy

I'm sure your local nursey, day care or library would love to have you come in and read to children and perhaps contact your local high school and get some of these teenagers to hep with this program. Some of the high school students need that community service on their resumes for college.



Supporting our Youth is important and we do this by Involving them in what we do.

Resources for Youth Activities can be found at:
vfwauxiliary.org/resources



"Think outside the box!" Look for activities that involve the youth in your program. Have a Patriotic Craft day for children at your post. For the fall conference I will have ideas for patriotic crafts for kids. Craft of the month: Patriotic Wind Sock
Remember to start thinking about Illustrating American Art contest, get those applications run off and bring them to your local libraries to circulate them.



Letting our Youth know that "From Sea to Shinning Sea we honor our Veterans Who Keep Us Free" is who we are and with "Forever Serving Veterans" is what we do.

Youth Activities

Craft of the Month

October



Although when we think of October we think of spooky goblins and pumpkins. Patriotism needs to be practiced at all times of the year. So this month's craft will deal with that and have fun making them.

Materials"

- *felt, patriotic fabric about a 1/4 yard
- *patriotic, red white, and blue ribbon
- *thread and white yarn and needle
- *glue
- *plastic mesh canvas

7. Using your white yarn, make a length of about 24 inches, attach to one side of cylinder and the other directly across from the other one. tie a knot and you are ready to hang your windsock.

Directions:

1. Make the circumference at 12 inches.
2. Cut out the canvas.
3. Using white yarn sew up sides to make a cylinder. Make it as long as you wish.
4. Using the fabric, glue it to the canvas and then sew the top and bottom with the yarn.
5. Cut as many ribbons as you wish at any length. Sew these onto one end of the cylinder.
6. Glue a ribbon on the top part of the cylinder and tie a bow in the middle.



DIRECTORY CHANGES OCTORBER 2025

Pages 4, 7 & 25

HOME ADDRESS

Theresa Andryszczak
24 Beech St.
Kearney, NJ 07032

Pages 6 & 9

HOME ADDRESS

Catherine Burkhardt
310 No. Broad St. Apt. F-6
Carneys Point, NJ 08069

Page 6

PHONE NUMBER

Dorothy Reichwein
856-275-3600

Website Update

The Department Website is up and running. However, it is in a constant state of update.

Our website address is: www.vfwauxnj.org.

I am going to go through what and where you can find things. As always, if there is something you would like to see on the website or something you can't find, please contact me at vfwadepntj@gmail.com.

On the Home Page, you will find a slide with the latest info, photos and other info.

The first section is the **About** section, you will find Announcements, Photo Gallery, the Mission Statement of the VFW Auxiliary, President's Corner, Department Officers (both elected and appointed), a page dedicated to the Past State Presidents, and the Monthly Promotions. If you do not receive the monthly mailings, they are available on the website or you can contact Department Secretary Margaret Russo.

The next section is **Programs** section. There is a page for every National and Department Program. Files and forms are available on the individual programs page.

Now the **Resources** section, is kind of catch all section. In this section, you will find pages dedicated to President, Secretary, Treasurer. All files related to those offices will be found there. We have a Chaplain's Corner, Member Address Change Info, Department Convention, District Info, Member Benefits (this is the Member Benefits from National), Downloadable Info (this includes 2025 Podium & By-Laws Book, Membership Forms, Treasurer Forms, National Home Life Membership Application, and the Cancer Grant Application), Family Freedom Festival, Building on the Auxiliary Foundation (this is a LARGE document (300+ pages)), Misc Resources (Auxiliary Resources, Back to Basics Training), Member Name Change Form, Publicity Tools & Press Releases and lastly Reports (Auxiliary Outreach Activity Report, Hospital Activity and Year-End Reports will be here).

In the **News** section, you will find news but you will also find the Department Calendar. Remember the Department Calendar is subject to change of both date and time.

Mary Ryan Sandman
Webmaster – Department of New Jersey
www.vfwauxnj.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 1

2025-2026 SERIES

September 24, 2025

1. Having been elected National President and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have also been duly elected and installed by the 112th National Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:

National Senior Vice President

Donna K. Mills, Auxiliary 1754, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

National Junior Vice President

Kim Harney, Auxiliary 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona

National Treasurer

Ann Panteleakos, Auxiliary 5446, Plainfield, Connecticut

National Chaplain

Sandra L. Uzell, Auxiliary 7536, Lyndhurst, Ohio

National Conductor

Margaret Jane Feher, Auxiliary 7387, Hazard, Kentucky

National Guard

Cynthia P. Davis, Auxiliary 8509, Baltimore, Maryland

National District Council Members (NDCMs):

NDCM No. 1 Maine | New Hampshire

Celeste Leigh Nicholas

NDCM No. 2 Vermont | Massachusetts

Lisa Jackson

NDCM No. 3 Maryland | New Jersey

Elizabeth DallaTezza

NDCM No. 4 Delaware | New York

Millie Hayes

NDCM No. 5 Missouri | Illinois

Danetta G Wakefield

NDCM No. 6 West Virginia | Virginia

Tina Lynn Hicks

NDCM No. 7 Tennessee | Kentucky

Cindy Kohrs

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1

NDCM No. 8 Georgia Alabama	Paulette Murray
NDCM No. 9 South Carolina North Carolina	Sandra S Johnson Leu
NDCM No. 10 Oklahoma Arkansas	Amanda Pipkin
NDCM No. 11 Wisconsin Iowa	Renee M Quinn
NDCM No. 12 Wyoming North Dakota	Vivian Bernotas
NDCM No. 13 Kansas Colorado	Tessa K Butcher
NDCM No. 14 Montana Idaho	Gale L Bestland
NDCM No. 15 New Mexico Arizona	Betty L Decker
NDCM No. 16 Hawaii Alaska	Amy L Vukasin
NDCM No. 17 Utah Nevada	Renee June West
NDCM No. 18 Rhode Island Connecticut	GinaMarie Rodriguez Doherty
NDCM No. 19 Mississippi Louisiana	Mary F Johnson
NDCM No. 20 Oregon Washington	Erin Mezek
NDCM No. 21 Nebraska South Dakota	Nancy Worth
NDCM Area A Pennsylvania	Bonnie S Drake
NDCM Area B Michigan	Carrie S Turner
NDCM Area C Indiana	Linda S Misuraca
NDCM Area D Ohio	Teresa L Singh
NDCM Area E Minnesota	Sonia Marie Tatge
NDCM Area F Florida	Tela Gay Harbold
NDCM Area G California	Kathleen M Smith
NDCM Area H Texas	Karen L Kaylor

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

National Secretary

Ann Panteleakos, Auxiliary 5446, Plainfield, Connecticut

National Chief of Staff

Karlene Beams, Auxiliary 2278, Hot Springs, Arkansas

National Patriotic Instructor

Diana Russell Milton, Auxiliary 4647, North Highlands, California

National Historian

Kristin M DiGiacomo, Auxiliary 2754, West View, Pennsylvania

National Color Bearer No. 1

Michael S. Yates, Auxiliary 10087, Beverly Hills, Florida

National Color Bearer No. 2

Katlyn M. Burke, Auxiliary 8334, Millard, Nebraska

National Color Bearer No. 3

Danetta G. Wakefield, Auxiliary 4207, Monett, Missouri

National Color Bearer No. 4

Karen Keech Lavoie, Auxiliary 237, Bristol, Rhode Island

National Banner Bearer

Sandra S. Johnson Leu, Auxiliary 7383, Cary, North Carolina

National Flag Bearer

Lisa Delaney, Auxiliary 4588, Bossier City, Louisiana

National POW-MIA Flag Bearer

Deborah Crowder, Auxiliary 10226, Oak Island, North Carolina

National Musician

Patsy Cole, Auxiliary 4190, Decatur, Alabama

National Soloist

Willa Watts, Auxiliary 3629, Fairbanks, Alaska

National Assistant Guard

Vicki McGahhey, Auxiliary 4554, Camden, Arkansas

National Assistant Soloist

Julia Price, Auxiliary 2111, Chula Vista, California

National Assistant Musician

Rhonda White Marcum, Auxiliary 4190, Decatur, Alabama

National Assistant Conductor

Shirlee Frias, Auxiliary 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico

5. As a reminder, some of the objects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible.

We therefore support the VFW in their focus to identify, address, and eradicate racial bias and discrimination. And the VFW Auxiliary leadership unites with the VFW leadership in the pursuit to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization.

6. Attention all members, in accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article XI-Discipline, any member who commits offenses recognized by the VFW Auxiliary may be subject to disciplinary action and may be assessed the penalties provided in this Article. The VFW Auxiliary joins with the VFW in stating that acts of sexual harassment, racial or

sexual discrimination, or any other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or deemed unbecoming of a member will not be tolerated. Harassment and discrimination include any verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or that otherwise interferes with another's ability to participate in VFW Auxiliary activities. All members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, professionalism, and common courtesy always.

BY ORDER OF:
Lois Callahan
National President

OFFICIAL:



Ann Panteleakos
National Secretary-Treasurer