

President Message

August 2025

We held our first School of Instruction it went very well. I would like to thank all that attended. We had a lot of information for the District Presidents, Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Trustees. Our next one will be August 2, 2025 at 1pm at Post 2314, Carteret. Please attend we have a lot of information for all of you.

Our Auxiliaries do great things for our veterans and our communities because of the uniqueness of our members. Find those special members that are in your auxiliaries and use them as you go into your communities with our programs. Our communities depend on the outstanding work we do.

If we have unity among our Auxiliaries, we can make a difference if we all work together. Working together will make a life better for our veterans, their families and our community.

If you plan activities, please let me know and I would like to attend. Working together we can assist if an auxiliary needs help.

Remember to use MALTA for anything you need on the programs. Don't be afraid to use the program, because you can't go where you are not allowed.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me.

I have traveled for 5 years, met some wonderful people who do some wonderful things for our veterans. Let's continue to do what we always do take care of our veterans.

Loyally,
Gloria Lisicki
President

'FOREVER SERVING VETERAN'S'

AMERICANISM

2025-2026

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

FLAG ETIQUETE!

As we start our new year, let's become experts about our beautiful Flags!

Showing Proper Respect to the Flag:

- During our Ritualistic meeting, the President will say "Salute" when the Flags enter and leave the room, as well as when we say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem. Salute the Flag by placing the palm of the right hand flat over the heart.
- During Auxiliary meetings, the heart salute shall be used at all times where the salute is used. A member who is also a veteran may use the military salute.
- When the Flag is displayed AND the National Anthem is played and/or sung, all present should face the Flag and salute.
- When the Flag is NOT displayed and the National Anthem is played and/or sung, all present should face the music and salute.
- Members should stand when the Flags are moving.

Parade Etiquete

When an American Flag passes:

- Stand up, remove your hat, place your right hand over your heart, Stop any conversation you are having.

Note: It is not necessary to salute every American Flag that passes.

- If it is carried by an honor guard or in a group with other flags, stand up and salute (veterans) or pay respect to the Flag • Do not salute small hand-held flags carried by parade attendees and participants.

Teach children to respect our nation's Flag. If they are given a small Flag, please do not throw it on the ground or in the street.

Military Flags Order of Precedence

According to Department of Defense guidelines, military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags):

Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard.

Spotlight your Flags!

Snap pictures of your Auxiliary's patriotic events and send them to me!

Forever Serving Veterans

Auxiliary Outreach

This month, I'd like to introduce you to volunteer opportunities with New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN). Folks, this group is exactly what it states. It is a network of like-minded individuals that share ideas, resources, and opportunities for our veterans and their families.

New Jersey Veterans Network is a volunteer mobile outreach program that is completely dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live a better life. The mission of NJVN is to create a system of Community Veteran Liaisons (CVL) whose role is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and solutions designed to meet their unique set of needs.

Our charity is comprised of members from the NJ PBA, NJ FOP, NJ FMBA, NJ American Legion, NJ VFW, and various other military and first responder organizations. We are endorsed and backed by numerous state and local elected officials. NJVN relies solely on motivated volunteers. The most important contribution is to have people become a part of the charity. We are always looking for volunteers and are more than happy to make our network even bigger for veterans in need. (source: <https://njvn.org/about/>)

Recently, I spoke with founder and president, Michael Boll, a former Marine Corp. veteran. Michael became involved with charity work when he was in law enforcement. After retiring Michael wanted to continue volunteering. As a veteran, he felt this was the population that he needed to work with, so he started NJVN in 2017. You can read more about Michael and his team here: <https://njvn.org/team/>

The group, which is a 501(c)(3), is very active. In fact, they recently helped out at the Brig Vet Surf Camp event held in South Jersey. The day I spoke with Michael, he was on his way to meet team mate, Doc Schupp, to deliver food and groceries to veteran families. Michael explained that the goal of NJVN is to provide veterans and their families life saving resources to live better lives. Many of our soldiers and their families experience residual stress and a range of emotions from their time serving our great nation. NJVN seeks to alleviate this mental load by providing healthy outlets for the mind and body. An introduction to yoga, hiking, surfing, running, etc. can put down roots for the receiver to grow in a positive direction. Boll also said that many of the individuals helped by NJVN ultimately join the group and pay it forward by volunteering.

Our VFWA members are also committed to bettering the lives of those that served. I asked how our members could help NJVN. Volunteers are always welcome at events. To find out about events near you follow NJVN on social media on Facebook and Instagram. Search "New Jersey Veterans Network" (<https://www.facebook.com/NJVN1/> https://www.instagram.com/nj_veterans_network/) You can also go directly to their website, njvn.org . The most valuable thing that you can offer is your time.

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Contact info for NJVN:
President, Michael Boll
3 Bond Dr.
Union, NJ 07083
[973-332-1556](tel:973-332-1556)

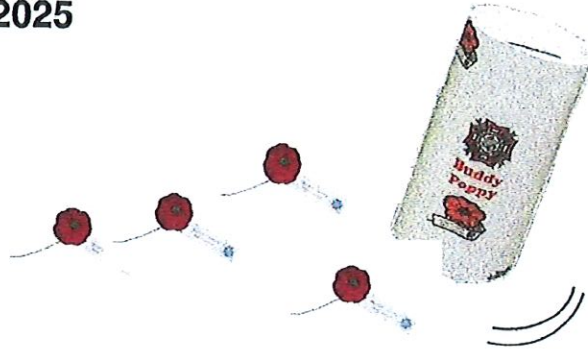
Yours in Service,

Kathleen Shanahan
NJ VFWA Aux Outreach 25/26
shanahank2@gmail.com
201-410-6814
njvn1775@gmail.com

"BUDDY" POPPY / VFW NATIONAL HOME

August 2025

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



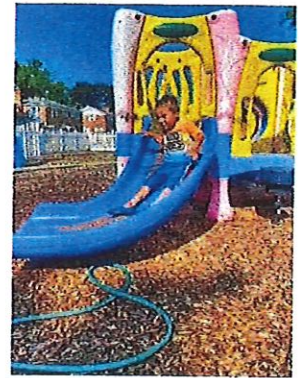
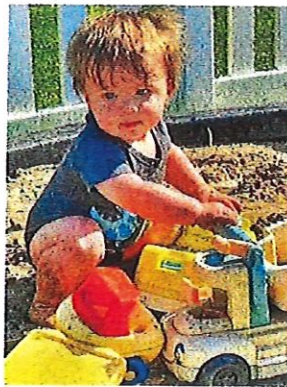
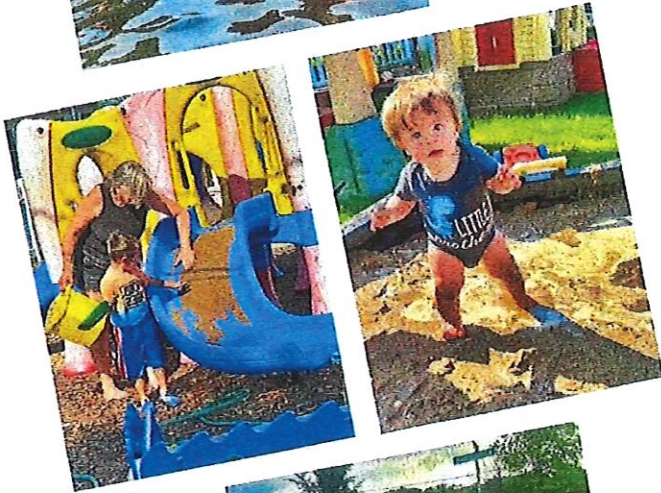
Well, it's August and we are just sailing through the summer!

There is still a lot of nice weather ahead so let's just continue to keep being seen in our communities. Fairs, Concerts, picnics, and BBQs to mention a few. Even posts events, just check with your Commander before putting those cans on tables. I'm sure they won't mind but out of respect ask first.

Some pictures to share with you showing the importance of the "Buddy" Poppy and how it supports the National Home in helping to provide a normal childhood for our Veteran's Children just look at these happy faces. They are our future!

So....Let's keep..... *Shaking!!!*

Those Poppy Cans



Just kids getting to be kids on a hot summer's day!



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



Building Strong Families

That is what they do ... build strong families. Who do they help? Active Military families, Veterans with families, and VFW or VFW Auxiliary members.

How you ask? Families participate in a 3-5 year program known as the Red, White, and Blue Program.

What do they offer?

- ◆ Case management services.
- ◆ Education, recreation, and enrichment opportunities for you and your children.
- ◆ Access to community resources and counseling.
- ◆ Housing and Daycare available.

So does some one you know need help or do you? Reach out! Share the information!

(Copy & print attached business cards for quick and easy info handouts!)

Visit vfwnationalhome.org/help

Call Helpline at 800-313-4200

Or use the QR Code



Forever Serving Veterans.....





Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary
"Buddy" Poppy & VFW
National Home Program

visit vfwnationalhome.org/help
call Helpline 800-313-4200
or use QR Code



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EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION AUGUST 2025-2026

Hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather. This is the perfect time to reflect on the upcoming year and to identify where your Auxiliary is possibly struggling.

Hopefully, your Auxiliary is a Green Flag Auxiliary and ready to work and promote our great programs.



Maybe your Auxiliary is a Yellow Flag Auxiliary in MALTA under member resources there are many tools to assist you with helping to make your Yellow Flag Auxiliary into a Green Flag Auxiliary.



Finally, if you feel your Auxiliary is a Red Flag Auxiliary it is not the end of your Auxiliary, it's the beginning of riding the wave to become the best Auxiliary you can be. The National Chief of Staff this year is promoting a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) to knock the Red Flags down. More information on PIP will be coming.



Let's all work together to help those struggling Auxiliaries to ride the wave to knock over those yellow and red flags and turn them into green flags.

I am always available and would be more than happy to attend your meetings to assist with any problems you may have.

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

RECRUIT – RECRUIT – RECRUIT – RETAIN – RETAIN – RETAIN

Extension & Revitalization Chairman/Chief of Staff

Margaret Russo

jerseymom1207@aol.com

732-887-7947

Historian/Media Relations

August 2025

Mary Ryan Sandman

176 Patty Bowker Rd

Tabernacle, NJ 08088

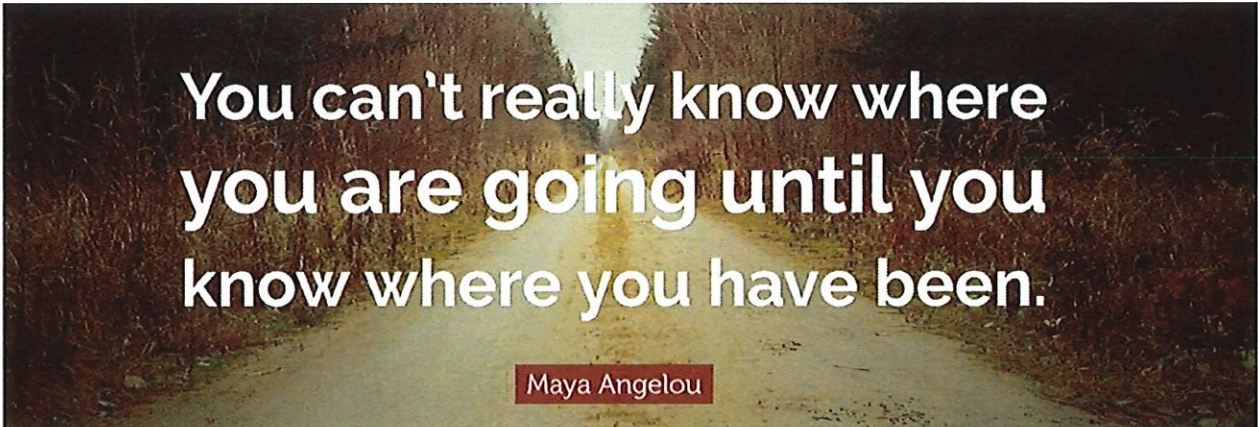
(609) 456-1774

maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

One of the topics that we are focusing on this year is “Honoring History and Traditions”. We, as an Auxiliary, have been around for now 100+ years. We need to honor the last 100 years and the traditions that accompany them.

When new/returning members come back, we may need to explain why we do things the way we do, what everything means during a meeting, etc.

This is also true for events we hold at our Posts. If an event didn't work well in the past, this doesn't mean it was a bad idea; it may just be a matter of timing. Just because something may not have worked 5-10 years ago doesn't mean it won't work now.



**You can't really know where
you are going until you
know where you have been.**

Maya Angelou



Now, for a new scam alert, I am currently dealing with.

Before the first School of Instruction, I made cookies for my nephews (because they are awesome –ask us!) I received a phone call on our landline from someone claiming to be from my Credit Union. They said there was some fraudulent activity on my debit card. I originally picked up because I thought it was The Red Cross.

The first phone call seemed off, so I hung up. Then they called back (also on the landline), this time it came up as my credit union. After talking for 10+ minutes, something seemed off. I had my laptop with me, so I logged into my credit union, and I was able to chat with them. I was told my account was fine and hang up.

I am currently waiting on a new debit card. □

Long story short, if something doesn't seem right, hang up. If your bank requires a password to talk to you, have them ask for it. If your bank only had your cell number on file and they call your landline, hang up. And then report it to your bank. If your bank is like mine, on their homepage, they post notices about current issues, it could be about website maintenance or a notice saying do not give this info out, we will never call you and ask for "X" information. Ignore these calls and call your bank!

Hospital August Communications 2025

Barbara Wiener Department Hospital Coordinator

609-464-1791

Barb.wiener@yahoo.com

201 6th St. N. Brigantine NJ 08203

Volunteers!!!!

VFW Auxiliary members have been volunteering in hospitals and medical facilities since the organization's inception in 1914. This program plays an important role in providing care and compassion to the Veterans. It also offsets millions of dollars in expenses in health care.

There are volunteer opportunities in every facility. Some might have specific programs, especially during events. Be sure to call ahead to check with the hospital representative or the facility itself. You can also volunteer in your local nursing home or assisted living facility

Auxiliaries, also remember the Hospital Awards!!! There are Volunteer Service Pins, charms and Bars for your hours. It is very important to fill out your hours as you visit the VA Hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. All applications forms are in MALTA.

*Provide a monthly sign-up sheet for regular events.

*Email and phone call volunteers for special events

*Offer public recognition of current volunteers

*Be specific about what volunteers will be doing, including the time commitment

*Find out how each person communicates best, whether by phone, email, Facebook or texting

*If someone says "no" to the first invitations, be sure to ask again!!

Anyone can volunteer, members, non-members, youth and families in many ways, depending on the facility.

RECRUIT RECRUIT RECRUIT

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home

August Communications 2025

Barbara Wiener, Vineland Rep.

barb.wiener@yahoo.com

201 6th St. N. Brigantine NJ 08203

609-464-1791

Welcome August!!! Can't believe how fast the year is going!!!

Fun Fact of the Month

The Vineland Veterans Memorial Home in NJ features a wheelchair accessible, 9-hole miniature golf course as part of its outdoor recreation area. This unique amenity allows residents to enjoy a fun and engaging activity outdoors, promoting physical and mental well-being in a social setting.

Next month is our first fun activity, National Playdoh Day!!! It is on September 17th at 2pm, come join us in this fun activity.

Don't forget about the Wish List from Amazon. I will post monthly if they are looking for anything special.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween---October 31---1pm

Turkey Bowling with Pies---November 19---2pm

State Christmas Party---December 14---11am

Watch for upcoming special events for next year, big surprises ahead!!!

Remember, no invitations are needed to spend time with the residents in Vineland, they always love seeing the volunteers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you to all!!!

LEGISLATION

August 2025

Hopefully most of your members have signed up for the VFW Action Corp, and if so, GREAT JOB, to everyone who responded to the VFW Action Alert. Congress passed the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act (H.R. 1815) which is now headed to the President's desk for his signature. The Bill will let the VA to cover delinquent payments and to work with lenders to keep our veterans in their homes and to prevent unnecessary foreclosures.

Another piece of good news the VFW has formed a partnership with the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) to authorize accreditation of representatives (approximately 2,200 more) between the two organizations which will expand access to, improve response times, and to streamline the claims process for our veterans. Anything to help our veterans in the claims process is a very good thing.

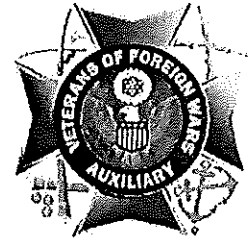
As we get closer to election day, please see if your Senators and Congressmen are holding open houses in your community, and if so, if you can attend one and take the time to ask them questions regarding our veterans and the priority goals. Also ask them what are they doing to support our veterans and also our service people no matter whether they are deployed or not. For help in finding your representatives attached please find the VFW auxiliary Legislative Program, Guide to Contacting Your Legislators.

Keep asking your members to sign up for the VFW Action Corps. as it will keep them up to date as to what is happening in Washington, D.C. for our veterans. Also let's remember to keep the VFW Priority Goals (a copy of the 2025 VFW Priority Goals is attached) in the forefront.

Yours in Service
Lynn Ann Malone
New Jersey VFWA Legislation Chairman
Lynmal1@aol.com
908-578-0440

VFW Auxiliary Legislative Program

A Guide to Contacting Your Legislators



As a North Carolina legislative staffer, I have learned a few things about citizen lobbying. Keep the following tips in mind when communicating with your senator or representative.

FINDING YOUR LEGISLATOR

- **Where to look up your Senator or Representative:** Go on the internet and type in the following address: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>. Once you find your representative and/or senator, write down the physical address of their district office (which will be in your state), the email address, telephone number and fax (if you wish) of the district office and the Washington, D.C. office. Use this contact information to communicate with your legislators. Be sure to check this site after each election. Even if the legislator is reelected, the office address may have changed.

VISITING YOUR LEGISLATOR

- **Make an appointment:** Legislative offices are extremely busy with many demands for appointments and often chaotic committee meeting schedules, along with sessions where legislation is debated and voted upon. If a staffer is unable to schedule a meeting with the legislator personally, ask to meet with a policy staff member or legislative assistant who will relay your issue and/or concern. If you are able to schedule a meeting with the legislator personally, keep in mind that all such meetings are typically tentative and subject to cancellation should a meeting or session be called that requires the legislator's attendance. Should this happen to you, keep your composure and ask to meet with an available staffer.
- **Be on time and dress appropriately:** Time is a valuable commodity in a legislative office. Please be sure to arrive on time, or even a few minutes early, for your appointment. This will allow you to have the best opportunity to meet for the maximum amount of time. There is no need for professional or Sunday best dress, however business casual attire will show respect for the office and make a positive impression on behalf of the VFW Auxiliary organization.
- **Be respectful to staff:** Staffers often make the decisions as to whom the legislator will meet. Make a friend of the "gatekeeper" and your experience, regardless of whom you may meet, will be much more positive. Never belittle the legislator to their staff!
- **Be prepared:** Make your presentation brief and be as clear and concise as possible. Write down talking points, including specific details you would like to relay, and provide them along with any materials to the legislator or his/her staff after the meeting.
- **Focus on the issue:** Keep your comments focused and specific. These meetings are likely to be brief, so follow your talking points. Should you forget to mention something or follow up is needed, send an email or letter after the meeting.
- **Send a thank-you note:** Thank the legislator and his/her staff for arranging and taking the time to meet with you to discuss your concerns. This goes a long way in reinforcing a positive impression of you and our organization with the legislator and his/her staff! Do this as soon as possible after your meeting.

WRITING OR CALLING YOUR LEGISLATOR

- **Be respectful:** Thank the legislator for serving and ask for their help in addressing your concern. Be mindful that often you will not be able to speak to the legislator when calling their office, instead you will be speaking with a staff member who will relay your issue and/or concern.
- **Email is effective:** Email has increased public understanding of what happens in Washington D.C., made members of Congress more responsive to their constituents, and influences the decisions of members of Congress.
- **Personalize your messages:** Staffers pay more attention to personalized messages that don't look like they have been cut and pasted from a letter. It's best to include one or two sentences in a message about yourself, the neighborhood you live in, and the types of organizations, associations, etc., you belong to in the community.
- **Focus on one issue:** Keep your phone calls, letters or emails short and focused on one issue. Personal stories of how you or those you know are affected by government policies add to the effectiveness of your communications. Messages that attempt to persuade, rather than demand, are more likely to be heard. Never belittle the legislator you are addressing!
- **Be specific:** Communications that request a specific action (including a bill number, if available) often have more impact than those that express only a generalized concern. Asking your senators and representatives to "support our veterans" is not as effective as writing to say "Don't vote for the new sequestering legislation, as it will limit access to services for our veterans."

PLANNING AND EXECUTING A PETITION

- **Be accurate and brief:** Thank the legislator for serving and ask for their help in addressing your concern. Be sure to include the bill number and a brief description of the bill or a brief summary of your issue.
- **Identify yourself:** Be certain to identify the organization as the organizer of the petition, especially if you are asking non-members to sign on.
- **Get the right information:** Place all of your descriptive and identifying information at the top of the page and below place three lines across on each row. The first line is for the person to sign their name, second line is for them to print their name and the third line is for their ZIP code.
- **Before you send it:** Gather all of the pages together and make as many copies as you wish to send, keeping one copy for your file. Staple or secure with a binder clip and place in a large envelope that has been addressed appropriately.
- **The Post Office:** Make sure you have adequate postage by asking the postal clerk to weigh the packet for you. This will ensure proper delivery to the intended recipient.

Legislators want to hear from their constituents. By presenting thoughtful, focused communications you can gain credibility with the member and his/her office staff, which improves your lobbying outcome.

The most important part of communicating with your legislator is to "Just do it!" The VFW and VFW Auxiliary have an incredibly strong presence nationwide as a veterans' service organization and every letter, email, phone call, fax, visit or petition strengthens our voice as we continually fight for services and benefits for our veterans.

*This guide was created by past National Legislative Ambassador Kathy Voss.

Support Today's Veterans and Military

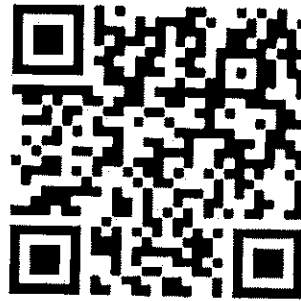
Please contact or visit your congressional representatives and stress that these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 119th Congress. These priority goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. To find your congressional representatives, visit vfw.org/ActionCorps.

Play a Role in the Process

Engage and help us ensure that these priority goals are enacted. Sign up today for the VFW Action Corps Weekly and VFW Action Alerts:

- Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps
- Text "VFW" to 50457*
- Scan QR Code below

*Messaging and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Reply HELP and STOP to unsubscribe.

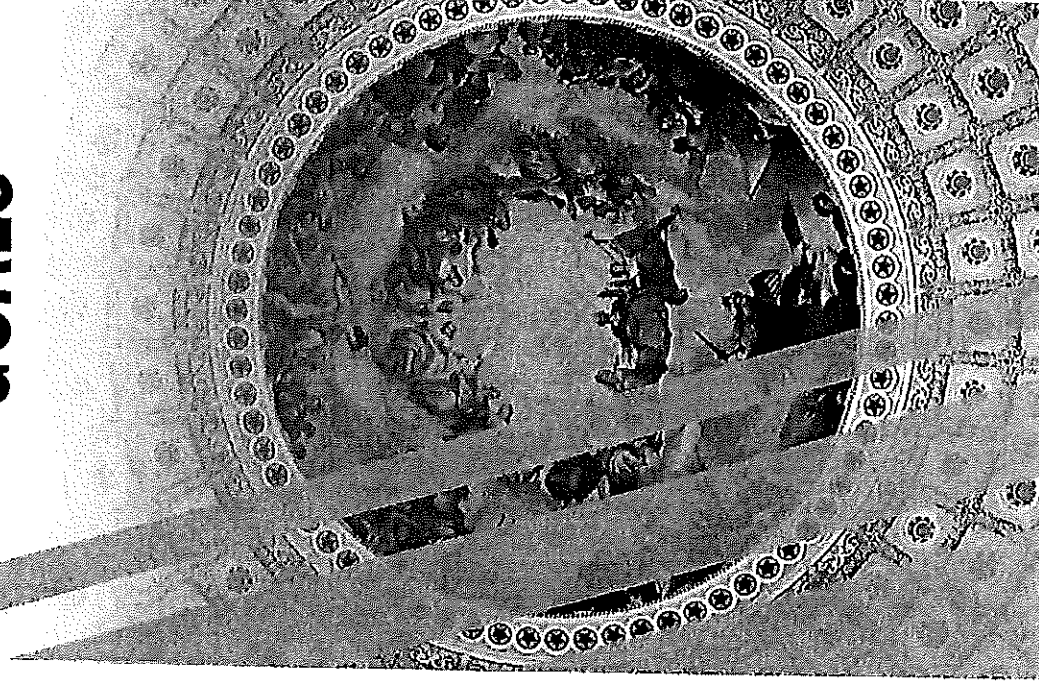


View the VFW's [privacy policy](#) and [terms of use](#).

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



2025 PRIORITY GOALS



*Delivering the promise to our
veterans, service members,
and their families.*

VFW
Washington Office
200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Tel: 202.543.2239

VFW
National Headquarters
406 W. 54th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Tel: 816.756.3390

www.vfw.org

Budget

To fully fund relevant programs for veterans, service members, and their families, Congress must:

- Ensure sufficient, timely appropriations and proper budget oversight for VA.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.
- Modernize and reform VA and DOD programs that do not meet the needs of service members, veterans, and families.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Crack down on unaccredited claims consultants known as Claim Sharks.
- Study all toxic and environmental exposures, and implement programs to ensure health care and benefits are provided to all exposed service members and veterans.

- Properly oversee and update the modernized appeals process, digital claims processing, and antiquated examination process.

- Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, burial allowances, and other benefits for survivors.

- Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma.

- Ensure that earned VA benefits are never unjustly reduced.

Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, Congress, VA, DOD, and DOL must:

- Improve education benefits through modernized online student housing allowances, child care stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.

- Enhance outreach and counseling to veterans eligible for the Veteran Readiness and Employment program.

- Ensure parity of VA and DOD education programs with other federal programs.

- Expand small business, hiring preference, tax incentives, and entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military spouses.

- Increase funding for HUD-VASH vouchers, grant and per diem payments, and pilot programs to combat veteran homelessness.

- Conduct oversight of VA's Transition Assistance Program to ensure compliance with the law, and require the inclusion of accredited claims representatives.

- Eliminate red tape preventing effective use of education and employment benefits.

Health Care

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA, and DOD must:

- Eliminate service member and veteran suicide.

- Reform the dysfunctional community care program at VA.

- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.

- Research the efficacy of plant-based alternative therapies for PTSD.

- Improve oversight of Vet Centers to ensure adequate staffing, resources, and funding.

- Enhance programs and services for women and underserved veterans.

- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.

- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT

- Expand nursing home eligibility and long-term care options.

- Modernize care for veterans outside of the United States.

Military Readiness

To maintain a strong and ready all-volunteer force capable of protecting American interests, Congress and DOD must:

- Enhance quality of life and health care programs that allow service members to focus on the mission.

- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve Component service members.

- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.

- Provide benefits enrollment for all transitioning service members.

- Eliminate sexual assault and harassment from the military.

- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.

- Ensure that military housing and work spaces are safe and modern.

- Eliminate food insecurity in the military.

National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA

To fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our nation's citizens, and defend American interests around the world, Congress and DOD must:

- Ensure DPAA is fully funded to perform its personnel recovery mission.

- Deter threats to our national security by supporting our allies in Ukraine, Israel, Korea, and Taiwan.

- Ensure all service members who served in harm's way, to include foreign nationals, translators, and allies receive the recognition, care, and benefits they may have earned.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2025 – 2026

August 2025 Communication

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




As we start yet another year of membership drives – are you feeling like it's the same old thing over and over again? We just finish a year and then immediately we're asking for you to start it up again? Smelling like old fish?? 😊 Well let's see if we can't blow in some fresh ocean air on this concern and get you excited again about this membership year!

I know you've heard membership is 24/7 and there's a very important reason for it. Without our members, we don't have the "pull and power" behind us to reach out to our legislators in Congress to demand proper rights and privileges for our veterans – we need the numbers. But we can't be just membership "strength", we must also be member "strong" – we need members who want to put in the time to this organization. Don't get me wrong – having the numbers is great and very necessary – but wouldn't it be nice to have more help in the kitchen at a fundraiser? Have members marching in a parade, hosting booths at town fairs, working at a local food bank, helping out at a veterans hospital function? And most importantly, promoting all we do for veterans? Both quantity AND quality are necessary and who says we can't recruit both??

Try my **A.S.K** analogy: - don't just find out if they're eligible, **Ask** if they would like to be part of an organization that aids and assists veterans. **Share** with them what your auxiliary does – show them pictures, flyers, snapshots in your phone of your different activities – **Show** your enthusiasm and **Spread** your love of the organization on to them!

Once recruited, **Keep** them in the loop and up to date with upcoming activities. If you don't see someone at a couple meetings in a row – send them a card or text, letting them **Know** they're missed and wanted. Investing just a little time, you will fill your auxiliary "pond" with new, excited and interested members!



Now let's talk  August 31 is our first Membership deadline! Any Auxiliary that hits 80% will receive \$20 at Fall Conference – let's get some \$\$\$ in your auxiliary treasurer!

Have a great summer – any questions, please call!

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

"Forever Serving Veterans"

FOLLOW OUR 2025-26 MEMBERSHIP FACEBOOK PAGE!

Participate in questions and give feedback on what works for your Auxiliary – follow us today!



Dept of NJ VFWA Membership 2025-26

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Dept of NJ VFWA Membership 2025-26

July 24 at 9:29 PM · 🌐

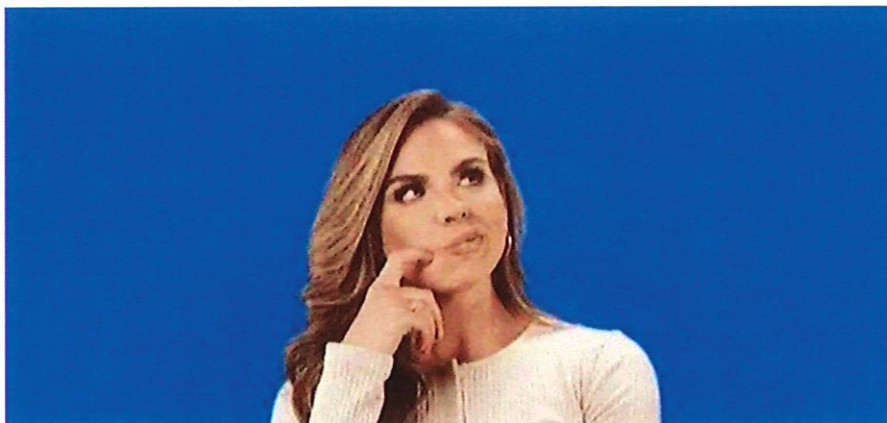
Membership Moment of the Day: if you want new members to join in, make sure they feel welcomed. We lose many new members within the first year, due to not feeling included!



Dept of NJ VFWA Membership 2025-26

July 15 at 5:53 PM · 🌐

Membership thought for the day...think about who is the longest ACTIVE member in your auxiliary...what makes them stay active all these years when we lose others within their first year of joining?? And...discuss!



Scholarships

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

September is right around the corner! Have you been able to talk with your Post to see if they need assistance with the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy programs? Remember the deadline for both scholarship contests is October 31st. These and all scholarship opportunities can be promoted directly through schools but can also be distributed through different community activities. Is there an upcoming community day that your Auxiliary would be able to set up a table to promote and publicize the various scholarship opportunities. This is a great way to make a personal connection and foster more responses.

All applications and criteria for all scholarship programs can be found in Malta. You can also request from National pamphlets that you can distribute containing the Auxiliary scholarship applications.

We will once again be promoting Auxiliary scholarships using Facebook. Please follow the page for more information on these programs. The name of the page is "State of NJ VFW Auxiliary Scholarship Page." Also, please share with me your successes and challenges. We can then celebrate our success and offer assistance to overcome any challenges that may arise. Communication is key to facilitating and fostering participation and the success of these contests.

The National representative and myself as the Department chairman would love to see all the great programs and efforts we conduct through the year. Please show off all your great work by connecting with myself and the National Organization.

Special Project

Mary Ryan Sandman

176 Patty Bowker Rd

Tabernacle, NJ 08088

(609) 456 – 1774

maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

July is Cancer Awareness for Sarcoma and Blood Cancer but it is also UV Safety Awareness.

I know in all our pasts, there were a variety of products we would use to get the “perfect” summer tan. (iodine, baby oil, lotion, or even nothing at all) The problem is that now we are paying the price. For everyday use, it is recommended for an SPF of 30+; this is why there is SPF in most skin care products. Our extended outdoor activities, SPF 50+ is recommended.

This year, Department President Gloria Lisicki has chosen for her Special Project Cancer Research through the Rutgers Cancer Institute but specifically Pediatric Cancer Research.

Pediatric Cancer can affect children from birth until the age of 19. While a child being diagnosed with cancer is rare, it does happen. And as with any type of cancer early detection is key. And as with other types of cancer, if something doesn't seem right, get it checked out.



Special Project/Cancer

August 2025

Mary Ryan Sandman

176 Patty Bowker Rd

Tabernacle, NJ 08088

(609) 456-1774

maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

August is Summer Sun Safety Month. It makes me think of only one thing: sunscreen!

It is a time to raise awareness about the importance of protecting one's skin from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

During this month, organizations and healthcare professionals promote sun safety measures such as:

- Wearing sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher
- Seeking shade during peak sun hours (10:00 AM to 4:00 PM)
- Wearing protective clothing, including a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses
- Performing regular skin self-exams
- Avoiding tanning beds

Summer Sun Safety Month is a reminder that sun protection is essential year-round, especially during the summer months when UV radiation levels are highest. By taking steps to protect their skin, individuals can reduce their risk of skin cancer and other sun-related health problems.



World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1st each year to raise awareness about lung cancer, its prevention, and the importance of early detection. The day aims to educate the public about risk factors, symptoms, and available screening options, particularly for those with a history of smoking.



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

August 2025

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

Military Assistance Program (MAP) will be the topic being discussed this month. The MAP program exemplifies the support to the military community by the local VFW. The support comes in many ways with the same goal – helping military families. Who else would know how important supporting our troops is but those that have served, been there, done that, or still serving. The answer is VFW members, along with their families, and Auxiliary members.

VFW and Auxiliary members assist families throughout deployments, whether they are long or short. They are also there when troops are sending-off and when welcoming them home. MAP has sponsored these types of events, since 2005, supporting more than 3.4 million service members and their families.

Adopt-A-Unit program is a large component of MAP. Its goal is to develop supportive relationships with units before, during, and after deployment. The VFW can deliver the vast network of resources it has available to the military.

VFW posts can 'adopt' local units, or those within the state. Overall, hundreds of military units around the world have been adopted. Posts can reach out to the local unit, or a Family Readiness Group leader (some can be found on social media platforms), or the headquarters of the state's National Guard. Someone will direct to the correct department or individual(s). For more information, links and forms, go to the VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support>.





Summer Fun

It's hard to believe that Summer is almost over and it is time to get into schools and promote our Programs for Youth Activities.

Working with Youth Groups

There are many youth groups that can use our support whether financially or by aiding them in their programs.

Adopt a youth group and help them along with their endeavors, whether it is the Scouts, sport groups, church groups or school groups. Let them know you are there to help and in return you can teach them about patriotism and what a Veteran is.



Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans

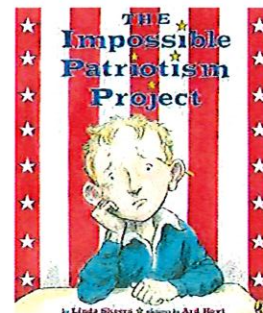
Many of our youth are patriotic, but don't always get the recognition that they should. Keep a look out for these groups, through the newspapers, social media and local announcements. Find out what they are doing and give them the recognition they deserve by giving out a citation for youth groups that support our Veterans.



Book of the Month Patriotism through Literacy

Reading to children is fun and they enjoy the stories. Local nursery schools, day care centers, and schools or libraries are good sources to read to children so get involved with reading some fun and exciting stories.

You can also donate books in the name of your Auxiliary to any of the above educational groups.



Remember we are here to support our youth and teach them how to respect our Veterans and learn about Patriotism through our endeavors as Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

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.

We cannot always build the future

FOR OUR YOUTH,
but we can build our youth
FOR THE FUTURE.

- FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

KID Activities net

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