

President Message
September 2025

We just returned from our National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. It was great the Department won quite a few awards for Chairmanships and received a nice amount of money for our treasury. I would like to congratulate all of our winners for a job well done. Past Department President Beckler will go over the winners.

The month of September is various Cancers month. Please send your pin money to our Treasurer Paula Pinto, also you can send an additional donation.

Remember we are here to help you, no matter what the problem or question is. It can be small or large we are here for you. Just give me or any of my line officers a call, e-mail and we will help you.

I don't know if you have heard that the Department Commander John Hinker has resigned due to personal reasons. We will miss him and wish him and Jackie the best of luck.

We must still work together, making sure we get everything possible for our Veterans which they deserve.

Wishing you a Happy & Healthy Fall!

God Bless all of you and keep you safe.

Loyally,
Gloria Lisicki
President

Home – 732-541-5392
Cell – 732-841-8037

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

NOVEMBER 2-4	National President Lois Callahan's Official Visit to NJ *** More Info to follow***
NOVEMBER 23	Fall Conference 1:00 PM Middletown VFW 2179 1 Veterans Lane PT Monmouth, NJ
DECEMBER 6	Council of Administration Meeting 10:00 AM Star Landing Pvt. Nicholas Minue Post 2314 289 Pershing Ave. Carteret, NJ
DECEMBER 13	Paramus Hospital Party
DECEMBER 14	Vineland Hospital Party
DECEMBER 21	Menlo Hospital Party

*** MORE INFORMATION ON EACH PARTY WILL BE COMING ***

All American Auxiliary Recognition Contest

2025 – 2026

Department Chairperson
P O Box 385
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

Victoria L Hendrix
Phone # (856) -577 -1314
legal.vhendrix@gmail.com

DEADLINE: ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ME BY MAY 15, 2026

The All-American Auxiliary Recognition Contest will be judged on your Auxiliary's participation in the Department and National Programs, along with their participation within the Auxiliary, Post, District and Community. There will also be judging based on the Auxiliary's social media platforms. The Department Communication Center provides facts which will be needed to conduct each program and it equips you with the criteria for a successful 2025 – 2026 year.

Participation in any Auxiliary, Post, or Community activity that honors our Veterans or any patriotic celebration in which the Auxiliary attendees - will need to include the following: DATE, PLACE OF ACTIVITY, PROOF - SUCH AS A PHOTOGRAPH, AND THE NAME(S) OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) IN CHARGE WITH A TELEPHONE NUMBER SO THAT THE INFORMATION CAN BE VERIFIED. THIS INFORMATION CAN BE MAILED, EMAILED, OR EVEN PUT ON EITHER THE AUXILIARY, DISTRICT OR DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE. Only proof of participation during the 2025 – 2026 year will be accepted. If any Auxiliary submits proof from a previous year – they will be penalized and lose out on that portion of credit.

If any Auxiliary attends any Department function, such as School of Instruction, State run Hospital Christmas parties, Fall and/or Spring Conferences - please be sure to include the number of members in attendance (even if the President cannot be there) and be sure to sign in on the attendance roster.

All Auxiliary's Year-End Reports must be mailed to the appropriate chairpersons by the due date.

Attached is an outline of the criteria that will be needed to join those who have become an "All American Auxiliary". You will be judged on the content the Auxiliary has provided in order to promote the programs, the way the Auxiliary members display their loyalty & patriotism, and their participation with their own Auxiliary, Post, District, or Community activities - which the Auxiliary members submit. There will be a point score system put in place for your Auxiliary to keep track of, and a portion of judging will come from there. Please use the outline as checklist as to what the Auxiliary has done throughout the year, and remember the information which is submitted is what the Auxiliary does as a collaborative effort.

I wish you all the very best!

EXAMPLE:

X_____ State Sponsored Christmas Party ----- 5 Points Per Member
(25 Points Max)

Email to: legal.vhendrix@gmail.com - How many attended, Date of the Party, Name of one of the (7) facilities, name & number of Contact Person and please don't forget to add pictures.

This section below will be verified by the Department Treasurer and Department Chairperson – No Proof Needed:

GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP

80% by August 31, 2025-----10 Points
95% by September 30, 2025-----10 Points
100% by December 31, 2026-----10 Points
104% by March 30, 2026-----10 Points

Comply with Bylaws/Administrative follow-through:

_____ Installation Reports form the Auxiliary Received in Department Secretary's Office or Entered into MALTA before June 30, 2025-----10 Points

_____ The Auxiliary Bonded their President and Treasurer August 31, 2025-----5 Points

_____ The Auxiliary Audits are handed in for all four quarters:

_____ August 31, 2025-----5 Points

_____ November 30, 2025-----5 Points

_____ February 28, 2026-----5 Points

_____ May 15, 2026-----5 Points

(WILL BE VERIFIED BY DEPARTMENT TREASURER)

_____ Are the dues of the Auxiliary President, Secretary, and Treasurer and three Trustees paid by December 31, 2025-----10 Points

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

_____ How many Auxiliary members not including the Auxiliary President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustees attended a School of Instruction-----5 Points Per Member
(25 Points Max)

_____ Did the Auxiliary's Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustees attend a School of Instruction (ATTENDANCE VERIFIED BY DEPARTMENT SECRETARY)-----5 Points Each

_____ How many Auxiliary members attended the Spring and Fall Conferences

(Sign In Required)-----5 Points Per Member
(25 Points Max)

_____ How many of your members are acquainted with MALTA-----5 Points Per Members
(25 Points Max)

PROMOTED & PARTICIPATION IN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS (Proof is needed)

The Auxiliary must be reported by April 15, 2026, for the Auxiliary to gain credit for what has been accomplished this year.

_____ Show proof that the Auxiliary has promoted and covered all the National Programs
15 Points

_____ How many Auxiliary members attended services and any other events pertaining to programs that have been promoted within your District-----5 Per Member/Event
(25 Points Max/Event)

AMERICANISM

_____ POW/MIA PROGRAM-----5 Points
_____ VETERANS DAY PROGRAM-----5 Points
_____ PEARL HARBOR DAY-----5 Points
_____ FLAG EDUCATION-----5 Points
_____ GOLD STAR FAMILY RECOGNITION-----5 Points
_____ PATRIOT DAY SERVICES (9/11 Services)-----5 Points

Other Americanism events you were involved in-----5 Points

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

_____ Did the Auxiliary participate with another outside organization for the Auxiliary Outreach Program-----5 Points

_____ How many Auxiliary Members Participated-----5 Points
(5 Points Per Members)

BUDDY POPPY & NATIONAL HOME

_____ Did the Auxiliary use Buddy Poppies in any way-----5 Points
(ie. Centerpieces, Corsages, etc.)

_____ Did the Auxiliary send a Donation to Department for the NJ House at the National Home-----5 Points

HISTORIAN AND SOCIAL MEDIA

_____ Does the Auxiliary have a Facebook Page-----5 Points

_____ Does the Auxiliary use/promote the National and Department on social media
5 Points

_____ Does the Auxiliary use/promote the Post, Auxiliary or Community events on social
media-----5 Points

HOSPITAL

_____ How many Auxiliary members attended a State Sponsored Christmas Party at one of
the (7) facilities-----5 Points Per Member
(25 Points Max)

LEGISLATION

_____ Submit copies of the communications which any of the Auxiliary members have
written to your Senator/Congressman regarding Veterans issues-----10 Points
(40 Points Max)

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

_____ How many Auxiliary members provide guidance for any other member during the
year-----5 Points per Member
(25 Points Max)

SCHOLARSHIPS

_____ Voice of Democracy – Did the Auxiliary promote and work with Post-----5 Points

_____ Patriot Pen – Did the Auxiliary promote and work with Post-----5 Points

_____ Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest – Did the Auxiliary Promote
5 Points

_____ Promoting the Continuing Education Program – Did the Auxiliary Promote
5 Points

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

_____ Did the Auxiliary Promote National Veterans Service (NVS)-----5 Points

_____ Did the Auxiliary promote and send their donation to Department to support the
Veterans & Military Support Program-----5 Points

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

_____ Did the Auxiliary Promote Patriotism through Literacy-----5 Points
_____ Did the Auxiliary promote Illustrating America-----5 Points
_____ Did the Auxiliary promote Youth reading to Veterans and/or Veterans Reading to
Youth-----5 Points

**ENJOY DOING ALL OF THE WORK WE CONTINUE TO DO WITHIN OUR
ORGANIZATION AND ABROAD FOR OUR VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND
OUR COMMUNITIES – AND HAVE A FRUITFUL YEAR11
REMEMBER “WHY” WE DO WHAT WE DO!!
REMAIN COMMITTED AND FOCUSED!!**

**YOURS IN TRUTH AND LEADERSHIP,
VICTORIA L. HENDRIX - CHAIRPERSON
ALL AMERICAN AUXILIARY RECOGNITION CONTEST
2025 - 2026**

AMERICANISM

September 2025-2026

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

Happy Birthday to us! Happy Birthday dear Auxiliary! Happy Birthday to us!



Did you know the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary was founded in 1914. That means in 2025, the Auxiliary will be 111 years old!! Sounds like a great reason to celebrate with a cake or a presentation on the history of the Auxiliary.

But wait—there's more to celebrate!

The VFW itself traces its founding to September 29, 1899. That means in 2025, the VFW is officially 126 years old. Another candle on the cake, and another reason to reflect on the incredible work we do together as a family.

U.S. Air Force Birthday – September 18

Join us in honoring all who have served and are serving in the United States Air Force. Consider Sending a card or a token of appreciation to an Air Force veteran!

Let's never forget to honor the sacrifices and remember:

Patriot's Day 9/11

- Attend or host a remembrance ceremony.
- Place flags or wreaths at memorial sites.
- Hold a moment of silence at your Auxiliary meeting.

POW/MIA Recognition Day – 3rd Friday in September (9/19/25)

- Host or participate in a Missing Man Table Ceremony.
- Educate the community about the meaning of this day.

Gold Star Mother's & Family Day – Last Sunday in September (9/28/25)

- Hosting a luncheon or coffee reception for Gold Star families.
- Partnering with your Post to present flowers or certificates of appreciation.
- Creating a remembrance display in your Post home.

September is a month filled with pride, reflection, and celebration. From honoring the founding of both the VFW and Auxiliary, to recognizing the service and sacrifices of our military members and families, let's come together to make this month truly meaningful.

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

Forever Serving Veterans

Auxiliary Outreach

It's about healing. It's about camaraderie. It's about staying fit mentally and physically. Its experiences that are curated by a group of knowledgeable advocates for veterans. These experiences get our soldiers outside, in nature. They help them heal from trauma sustained during their military tenure. These experiences provide a healthy outlet that veterans can turn to, especially if they have been struggling. These experiences come as kayak outings, hunting, fishing, BBQ's, campfires, cornhole, equestrian encounters, and gardening, to name a few. These experiences are provided, free of charge, by Woods n Water.

Woods n Water, a 501(c)(93), was started by George Daly and Emily Reid in 2020. Both had been volunteering with another organization, Heroes on the Water, when they realized that the need to expand opportunities on land was strong. I recently interviewed Daly. He explained that WnW began on 7.3 acres in south Jersey; in 2024 they were able to expand to 17.65 acres! On this acreage, our veterans, active-duty military, and first responders have the opportunity to tend to their mental and physical health by connecting with the outdoors. All events are free of charge. Several of the board members are mental health certified and include a licensed, professional mental health counselor. Our military participants are introduced to a VSO and follow-ups take place to ensure veterans are receiving services to optimize what they require for their needs. Woods n Water also provides an active food pantry for those that offer delivery to those it serves, as well as veteran clients of the VA and other veteran organizations and agencies.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to volunteer. Volunteer opportunities include helping with the property garden; this garden helps to supply the pantry, in addition to connecting people to the earth. Campfires that encourage fellowship among military and first responders also require volunteers to assist with set-up, cooking, etc. The additional acquisition of acreage also provides an opportunity to step up and help out with projects on the property. Pantry shelves need to be organized and animals need to be tended to, as well. Please reach out to WnW to see how you can be of help.

Woods and Water website: <https://woodsnwater.org/>

Contact info: 856-688-4000 PO Box 121, Rosenhayn, NJ 08352

Upcoming events:

9/9/25 VFW Commander Jon Hinker Walk/Ruck at Cape May Meadows More info at <https://woodsnwater.org/event/vfw-commander-jon-hinker-woods-n-water-walk-ruck-cape-may-meadows/>

9/14/25 Hero Bass Fishing Derby at DOD Lake * *If you have a bass boat with a live well and an experienced angler, please join us and take a non-boater Hero out fishing! Whether you are a Hero supporting your brothers and sisters or a civilian wanting to give back and thank our Nation's Heroes, we want you!!! We ask that all volunteer boaters arrive by 0500, get your boat and gear ready by 0530, sign in and get to know one another until teams are announced. More info at*
<https://woodsnwater.org/event/mission-hero-bass-fishing-derby-dod-lake-2/>

11/26/25 4th Annual Drunk'n Pumpkin Chuck'n in Pittsgrove, NJ More info at
<https://woodsnwater.org/event/4th-annual-pumpkin-chuckin/>

If you'd like to volunteer at any of these events or look further into how you or your Auxiliary can help Woods and Water, please make contact with the group.

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

*Denotes info taken directly from the WnW website.

"BUDDY" ©POPPY / VFW NATIONAL HOME

September 2025



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



Well Fall is just around the corner September 22nd to be exact. Temperatures will be cooling off , thank heaven as we have had some brutal heat waves. However, that is not a reason for us to coo off our efforts with canning drives. Keep moving and shaking those cans and we'll stay warm. Communities and local farms and businesses will be holdings outings where we can be visible with our "Buddy" Poppies. Red is a fall color so they will blend well at Fall Festivals. Include them in your fall decorations and centerpieces. Visibility!





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



September 2025

Fall is here and school is starting! When you are on Amazon shopping check out the shopping list for the National Home. Do some back to school supply shopping. Spiral notebooks and flash drives are just a couple needs to mention. I'm sure the help would be greatly appreciated. **VFW National Home Wish List** and the shipping is free. Also, don't forget your donations to the Whitmore/Callahan 2025/2026 Joint Project to Stock the Store just scan and donate. How easy is that! Also the funds can come from all that canning you have done!

**Whitmore's Warriors
Class of 2025-2026 Project**



**LET'S DO MORE
STOCK THE STORE**



**V F W
NATIONAL HOME**



Whitmore / Callahan 2025 / 2026

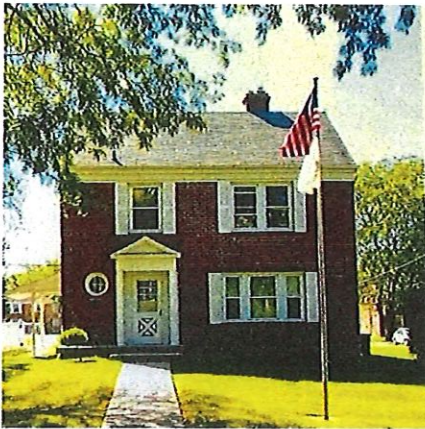
Store Equipment (Refrigerators, freezers, etc and Food)

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.



Now for a little FYI!

Did you know this is what the Home sponsored by the Dept of New Jersey VFW and its Auxiliary looks like? Nice and homey looking, isn't it?



It was built in 1929 ✪ 1,933 Square Feet ✪ 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths
Giving a home to a Veteran and their Family while getting back on their feet!

The VFW National Home Board of Trustees oversee the management and operation of the Home.



TRUSTEE FOR THE NEW JERSEY HOME

This is Jodie Hollinger, Jr. Vice President

She is from Pennsylvania and Represents District 3 (NJ PA OH WV)

Term 2021-2027

Thank you for all you do.

Forever Serving Veterans.....



"Buddy" Poppy /VFW National Home

Year End Report

2025-2026

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

This form is for statistical purposes only.

Auxiliary Chairman must submit this report to their Department Chairman by April 15, 2026.

VFW "Buddy" Poppy

1. Did your Auxiliary hold a VFW "Buddy" Poppy drive with or without your Post? (Yes or No) _____
2. Number of VFW "Buddy" Poppies that were distributed. _____
3. Did your Auxiliary participate in the VFW "Buddy" Poppy Display Contest at Department Convention? (Yes or No) _____

VFW National Home

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home? (Yes or No) _____
2. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home Helpline? (Yes or No) _____
3. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one VFW National Home Life Membership in the current Program Year? (Yes or No) _____
4. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick in the current program year? (Yes or No) _____

Auxiliary Name & Number _____ District _____

Chairman Name _____ Date _____

Chairman Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Historian/Social Media

September 2025

Mary Ryan Sandman
176 Patty Bowker Rd
Tabernacle, NJ 08088
(609) 456 – 1774
maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

Since this is my first promotion after the National Convention, I would like to congratulate VFW 386 in Cape May for winning last year's Award #1 – Most Outstanding Promotion of VFW Auxiliary Programs to the Community through Social Media.

Please make sure you look at the contests and deadlines in the Communication Center. Contact me if you have any questions.

Last month, I highlighted the Historian portion of the program. This month is all about Media.

Social Media is the fastest way to get our message out. This applies to all of our programs, the VFW programs, and all the Scholarships.

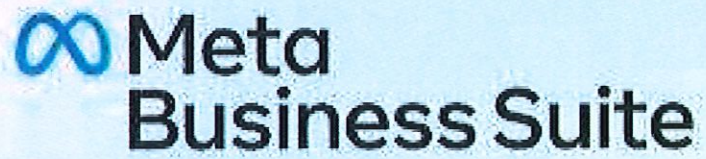
Our seasoned members use Facebook, while our younger members use Instagram or IG for short. What does your Auxiliary use?

Did you know that both of these platforms are owned by Meta (the company that started Facebook), and that they can "talk" to each other.

The best (and easiest) way to do that is with the Meta Business Suite. There, you can schedule posts, link your IG and Facebook pages, cross post with one post.

While we do seem to talk more and more about current (social) media, let's not forget traditional media. Traditional Media includes newspapers, TV, radio, and newsletters.

Does your Auxiliary send out Newsletters? They are a great way to let our current members know what is going on at the Post and within the Auxiliary. If you search online, you can find templates for digital and printed newsletters.



Important Links

VFW Auxiliary

www.vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary NJ

www.vfwauxnj.org

Facebook

VFW Auxiliary Department of New Jersey

IG

www.instagram.com/vfwadepnjl/

**Hospital Communications
September 2025**

Barbara Wiener Department Hospital Coordinator
201 6th St. North Brigantine NJ 08203

barb.wiener@yahoo.com
609-464-1791

Hello everyone, I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer, I can't believe that it's September already.

I wanted to talk about the Honors Escort Program; I need your help. We are looking to implement this program in all the VA Hospitals. There will be a class offered to all the directors in each hospital (coming soon). In the meantime, I'm looking for donations of casket or burial flags. This is a flag that is draped over the casket as they bring the deceased veteran out of his room and through the halls. It is 5ft by 9.5 feet, this size is a government standard, with flags made from 100% cotton, featuring embroidered stars, sewn stripes and a durable canvas header. They run anywhere from \$60.00 to \$100.00. You can send them to me and I will be distributing them to VA homes, as well as any private nursing home that wants to do the Honors Escort for their Veterans.

I will be working closely with Paul Thompson, State Dept. Chaplin and Minnie Cousins State Dept. Hospital Chairman for this project.

Remember the awards for any Auxiliary that puts this project into light at any VA Hospital or private Nursing homes. Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Also, remember the holidays are fast approaching and don't forget to send in your quotas to all the hospitals. There are recognition certificates to any and all Auxiliaries who donate to 5 or more hospitals.

Don't forget to submit any volunteer hours that you or your Auxiliary does, every hour matters, whether you go to a private nursing home or to a VA Home. Those numbers are important for pins and recognition.

Thank you to all that help.

Paramus Home

We have a lot of great events planned for our Paramus Home vets this year. Our Auxiliary members can help by purchasing party supplies or by volunteering to interact with the residents at events. This year, I've put together a supply list for the activities and events we have planned. This makes it easy for our Auxiliaries to purchase items directly from Amazon. They ship to me. Of course, monetary donations in any amount are also needed; these can be sent in on your quota sheet or mailed to our Department treasurer with "Paramus Home" earmarked in the memo spot. The link for the list is: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1I2LEL732TXOG?ref=wl_share

This is a list (subject to change) of activities we have for 25/26

***Tea Party** - We have a local Girl Scout Troop that has volunteered to host a tea party for our residents. BINGO, snacks, and tea are planned. All we need are party supplies!

***Halloween** - We are looking for a local group (daycare, Scouts, etc) to hold a trunk-or-treat at the facility. This was a big hit the last time we did it so I'm really hoping for a group to bring decorated cars and children to trick-or-treat!

***Christmas Party** - Our annual party takes place on **Saturday, December 13 @ 2pm**. We'll have food, entertainment, games, and goody bags. Volunteers needed.

***Sock Hop** - We're planning ice cream sodas, karaoke, and lots of dancing! It's on January 3, so let me know if you'd like to volunteer to help out.

***National Carrot Cake Day** - Carrot cake for residents.

***Art Day** - I'm looking to make a gallery of children (or adult) paintings, drawings, etc. for the residents to view and keep. We'll also have a painting activity for the residents.

***Ice Cream Split Social** - This requested activity will also feature a BINGO game.

***Kentucky Derby** - We are looking for a group to be our "horses" for the residents to bet on. (Scouts, Confirmation candidates looking for service hours, or adults that love to have fun). We'll also have snacks, mint juleps, a scratch off game and pull tab game.

***Garden Day** - Seniors will receive a seedling in a decorated pot. There will be an art activity, too.

Do not forget to report anything you purchase from the Wish List or any hours you volunteer on your hospital report sheet.

Questions? Call or text Kathleen @ 201-410-6814

Yours in Service,

Kathleen Shanahan

NJ VFWA Paramus Hm Rep 25/26

shanahank2@gmail.com

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

**VETERANS HAVEN SOUTH
301 SPRING GARDEN RD
HAMMONTON, NJ
SEPTEMBER 2025 COMMUNICATION**

Denise Beckler
856-448-3501 / denise.beckler@aol.com

12 Wright Ave
Stratford, NJ 08084

Do you know Veterans Haven South is a WORKING facility, not a nursing home? Those who come to VHS, are vetted by the VA Hospital and if accepted are given a chance to gain their life back. Many who come to VHS have been homeless – lost family, friends, everything due to addition, PTSD or other issues. Veterans Haven South gives HOPE to these veterans.

They receive their own room and board for the next 18 months – 2 years. They attend counseling meetings, get any medical needs taken care of and help find work placement. The end goal is for the veterans to find sustainable work, get a place of their own and back out to live their lives.

And while this is a state run facility, as you can imagine, the budget is bare bones. Their room and board are taken care of, but it's the donations and kindnesses extended by organizations like us, that help these veterans with the "extras". What are considered extras? How about:

A pizza dinner!	individually wrapped snacks for their room
a new blanket or pillow	personal size alarm clocks
soda or snacks for the fridge in their room	Gift cards to WaWa (for gas as many work)
socks/slippers	sweat pants/shorts/T-shirts
storage containers for storage of snacks	cleaning wipes to keep room clean
dryer sheets	double and triple A batteries for remotes/clocks

And once the two years is up and the veteran is hopefully transitioned into an apartment, they need all things related to setting up a home. A bed, television, sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, dishes, anything that one would need to establish a home.

If your auxiliary can help out with any of these items, that would be fantastic! But if you're an auxiliary on a tight budget, just making a small donation to the Veterans Haven South budget can help! Lots of small monetary donations, can make it possible for us to make purchases on your behalf and get those items on the VHS wish list. If able, please make a check out to the VFWA Dept. of NJ and in the memo line, write VHS budget. We'll see those funds get used!

UPCOMING HOLIDAY PARTY! This year's VFW/VFWA Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 5PM. We hope you'll be able to come join us for an evening of fellowship with the residents!

Two important items to note:

- When dropping off donations, be sure to fill out a receipt slip and send a copy of it with the hospital activity report to Hospital Coordinator Barbara Wiener.
- Donate ONLY new clothing – used clothing can no longer be accepted!

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

"Forever Serving Veterans"

**Vineland Veterans Memorial Home
September Communications 2025**

Barbara Wiener
201 6th St North
Brigantine, NJ 08203

barb.wiener@yahoo.com
609-464-1791

Fun Fact of the Month

Did you know that Vineland has a donations store? It is called, Red, White and Bluetique. It is a store for residents. Items available in this area are comprised of donated items from our Wish List. Residents may shop in this area free of charge during store hours. Items in the store may vary according to stock, but they may include T-shirts, baseball caps, greeting cards, small gifts items, toiletries and personal care items.

Unfortunately, I will be canceling the National Playdoh Event. There are a rash of viruses going on in Vineland and I rather not take a chance on anyone getting sick. I will be scheduling another event soon. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Don't forget about the upcoming events in the next few months.

Also, there is always an updated wish list, although nothing has changed since last month, please refer to that one if anyone chooses to use it.

They are always looking for volunteers, but with the current lockdown, please call ahead if going to volunteer. And always remember to write down your hours.

Any questions please feel free to reach out to me.

Don't forget to send in your quotas, lots of holidays coming up and they look forward to having parties. Thank you in advance.

LEGISLATION
PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER 2025

It is the time of year when everything seems to slow down. It is the last days of summer, the kids are getting ready to go back to school, people are taking their final days of vacation, and our representatives in Washington D.C. are taking a small recess before they have to get back to the business of running the country.

It is the time of year where everyone should be thinking about our veterans and what we can do to support them. Attached please find a copy of the VA PACT ACT report for the third year in review which was sent through Action Corp. Weekly. I cannot stress how important it is for everyone to sign up for Action Corp which you will receive every Monday through email. The information that you will receive will not only help you but will also help our veterans through Call to Action items which they will send out if help is needed to support our veterans.

I would also like to call your attention to the fact that September is Suicide Prevention month. We should try to do anything that we can to reduce the number of veteran suicides. Please write to your representatives to keep this in the forefront of everything that they do this month.

Remember that your representatives hold Town Hall meetings during the year. Senator Andy Kim held one recently in Westfield, New Jersey in which over 500 people attended where various topics were addressed by him to the crowd in attendance. You can google his name, or any other representative and you will be able to get to their web site and obtain any information that you want, including leaving messages.

Yours in Service,

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



VA PACT ACT

THIRD YEAR IN REVIEW

AUGUST 15, 2025

YEAR THREE—ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

The PACT Act dashboard is moving from monthly publishing to quarterly publishing beginning October 2025 (1st quarter 2026). A new quarterly publishing schedule will be released soon!



In this VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard, we are demonstrating our commitment to transparency by sharing with all stakeholders—internal to VA and externally—key performance metrics and data we are using to assess our success in implementing the PACT Act. This Issue of the dashboard includes the core metrics assessing VA's implementation of PACT Act since enactment. Our next regularly scheduled dashboard with the full complement of metrics will be published on Friday, August 22, 2025.

If you, a Veteran, family member, or survivor would like more information about the PACT Act and your VA benefits, please start here:



VA.GOV
ask.va.gov



CALL
1-800-MyVA411
24/7/365



WALK-IN
va.gov/find/locations



VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION
va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim



NEW HEALTH CARE & BENEFITS MAP
[Download Map Here](#)



Help spread the word—[download PACT Act Outreach Materials!](#)



The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history. In this section, we are measuring the overall impact of the PACT Act in terms of its expansion of health care and benefits.

VA IS EXPANDING CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS

Expanding Benefits



1,908,529
Total PACT Act Related Claims Approved
(08/10/2022–08/02/2025)



1,572,463
Total Veterans/Survivors with Approved PACT Act Related Claims
(08/10/2022–08/02/2025)



1,946,779
Total Veterans/Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims
(08/10/2022–08/02/2025)

1,556,461
Total Veterans with Approved PACT Act Related Claims
16,065
Total Survivors with Approved PACT Act Related Claims

1,913,200
Total Veterans with Completed PACT Act Related Claims
33,755
Total Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims

Expanding Care



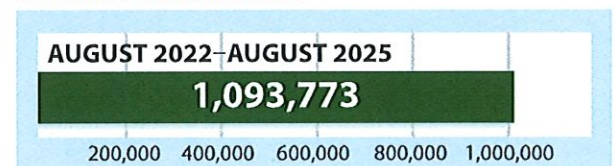
485,897
New Enrollees from the PACT Act Planning Population
(08/10/2022–08/01/2025)



92.8%
VA Health Care 90-Day Trust Score
(05/06/2025–08/01/2025)



Total New VHA Enrollees:



Benefits Experience



2,829,134
Cumulative Total PACT Act Related Claims Submitted
(08/10/2022–08/02/2025)



2,594,544
Cumulative Total PACT Act Related Claims Completed
(08/10/2022–08/02/2025)



38.7%
Percentage of PACT Act Related Claims Submitted

2,789,591
Total Veteran PACT Act Related Claims Submitted
39,543
Total Survivor PACT Act Related Claims Submitted

2,559,235
Total Veteran PACT Act Related Claims Completed
35,309
Total Survivor PACT Act Related Claims Completed

\$11,982,764,732.60
Total PACT Act Benefits Paid
(08/10/2022–08/02/2025)

Care Experience



6,388,168
Total Toxic Exposure Screenings
(09/06/2022–08/01/2025)



2,991,102 (46.8%)
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed at least 1 Potential Exposure
(09/06/2022–08/01/2025)



4,180,479
Current Enrollees in the PACT Act Planning Population
(as of 08/01/2025)

640,354 (10.0%)
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed more than 1 Potential Exposure
2,350,748 (36.8%)
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed exactly 1 Potential Exposure



REMINDER: The PACT Act is here to stay, and Veterans and survivors can apply anytime for the benefits they've earned. While there's no deadline to apply, there is urgency: the sooner you apply, the sooner you could start to receive benefits. So don't wait, apply today. Visit va.gov/PACT to apply!

GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

PACT Act Year Three in Review—August 15, 2025

U.S. STATES/TERRITORIES	PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN STATE	% OF ALL VETERANS NATIONALLY	VETERANS CURRENTLY ENROLLED WITH VA FOR CARE	% OF VETERANS CURRENTLY ENROLLED WITH VA FOR CARE	CUMULATIVE CLAIM TOTAL FROM AUGUST 10, 2022–AUGUST 02, 2025					TOTAL NEW ENROLLMENTS (SINCE AUGUST 10, 2022)	NEW ENROLLMENTS UNDER PACT AUTHORITIES (SINCE AUGUST 10, 2022)	BENEFITS PAID FROM AUGUST 10, 2022–AUGUST 02, 2025
					TOTAL PACT ACT RELATED CLAIMS RECEIVED	% OF TOTAL PACT ACT RELATED CLAIMS RECEIVED	PACT ACT CLAIMS COMPLETED	PACT ACT CLAIMS GRANTED	PACT ACT APPROVAL RATE*			
ALABAMA	339,330	1.90%	177,283	2.04%	68,540	2.42%	63,042	45,994	73.0%	21,600	4,641	\$284,415,626.56
ALASKA	70,058	0.39%	34,240	0.39%	9,396	0.33%	8,658	6,961	80.4%	4,876	1,372	\$44,793,330.80
ARIZONA	470,274	2.63%	234,662	2.70%	69,846	2.47%	63,950	46,252	72.3%	26,955	5,891	\$323,981,822.31
ARKANSAS	199,872	1.13%	101,934	1.17%	33,457	1.18%	30,600	21,818	71.3%	9,451	1,808	\$140,172,712.33
CALIFORNIA	1,426,857	7.97%	670,543	7.70%	211,481	7.48%	194,070	142,546	73.5%	90,961	18,308	\$959,911,002.77
COLORADO	362,911	2.02%	177,820	2.04%	54,944	1.94%	51,029	38,825	76.1%	27,118	7,253	\$217,341,548.81
CONNECTICUT	146,577	0.82%	62,623	0.72%	15,811	0.56%	14,440	10,375	71.8%	7,521	1,416	\$67,034,731.87
DELAWARE	62,587	0.35%	27,737	0.32%	8,732	0.31%	8,005	5,833	72.9%	3,462	777	\$37,557,536.57
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	27,226	0.15%	11,054	0.13%	3,315	0.12%	3,026	2,117	70.0%	1,518	378	\$15,077,026.69
FLORIDA	1,395,599	7.82%	736,084	8.45%	258,110	9.12%	234,834	172,083	73.3%	90,547	18,860	\$1,011,621,000.71
GEORGIA	656,509	3.68%	339,600	3.90%	127,932	4.52%	117,787	83,774	71.1%	43,382	9,470	\$484,064,042.86
HAWAII	108,526	0.61%	49,325	0.57%	18,410	0.65%	16,873	12,610	74.7%	8,803	2,525	\$67,279,845.77
IDaho	121,797	0.69%	65,039	0.75%	17,791	0.63%	16,364	12,667	77.4%	7,489	1,776	\$76,974,065.29
ILLINOIS	603,982	3.38%	224,595	2.58%	69,150	2.44%	62,848	47,634	75.8%	25,944	4,565	\$370,172,464.60
INDIANA	363,906	2.05%	168,223	1.93%	52,525	1.86%	47,950	33,994	70.9%	19,546	3,755	\$210,510,601.24
IOWA	177,098	0.99%	84,109	0.97%	25,744	0.91%	23,213	17,373	74.8%	9,181	1,669	\$115,591,523.01
KANSAS	177,701	1.00%	79,601	0.91%	26,476	0.94%	24,402	18,863	77.3%	10,049	2,535	\$119,768,687.68
KENTUCKY	257,947	1.45%	126,295	1.45%	39,704	1.40%	37,075	26,811	72.3%	12,740	2,575	\$164,909,984.34
LOUISIANA	252,164	1.42%	119,387	1.37%	52,571	1.86%	48,034	33,551	69.8%	14,667	2,746	\$207,244,266.65
MAINE	104,568	0.59%	51,558	0.59%	12,094	0.43%	11,023	8,378	76.0%	5,276	910	\$58,184,645.98
MARYLAND	352,106	1.98%	154,073	1.77%	54,041	1.91%	49,894	36,958	74.1%	22,208	5,132	\$222,811,408.56
MASSACHUSETTS	264,411	1.48%	114,118	1.31%	28,461	1.01%	25,630	18,810	73.4%	14,766	2,635	\$128,447,191.96
MICHIGAN	486,268	2.74%	212,831	2.44%	60,892	2.15%	55,434	40,753	73.5%	26,090	4,392	\$281,236,067.08
MINNESOTA	286,594	1.59%	146,796	1.69%	36,556	1.29%	33,858	25,870	76.4%	15,789	2,593	\$160,140,180.23
MISSISSIPPI	179,984	1.02%	90,017	1.03%	39,880	1.41%	36,312	25,420	70.0%	9,899	1,967	\$154,888,023.69
MISSOURI	384,479	2.16%	185,059	2.13%	51,771	1.83%	47,560	35,625	74.9%	21,420	4,525	\$234,725,543.65
MONTANA	87,185	0.49%	48,341	0.56%	12,265	0.43%	11,295	9,050	80.1%	5,416	1,349	\$64,832,182.15
NEBRASKA	117,621	0.66%	62,460	0.72%	19,346	0.68%	17,853	13,554	75.9%	7,172	1,631	\$82,701,318.21
NEVADA	207,659	1.16%	112,286	1.29%	39,421	1.39%	36,211	27,451	75.8%	13,524	3,000	\$188,617,342.83
NEW HAMPSHIRE	90,744	0.51%	43,293	0.50%	9,569	0.34%	8,530	6,384	74.8%	5,341	967	\$40,268,542.08
NEW JERSEY	295,751	1.66%	112,244	1.29%	33,974	1.20%	30,456	22,689	74.5%	14,825	2,806	\$180,723,674.20
NEW MEXICO	150,935	0.85%	69,900	0.80%	19,919	0.70%	18,220	13,197	72.4%	7,952	1,454	\$89,659,824.76
NEW YORK	637,541	3.57%	279,211	3.21%	66,926	2.37%	60,945	44,876	73.6%	27,294	5,235	\$330,635,037.35
NORTH CAROLINA	682,186	3.82%	359,809	4.13%	126,226	4.46%	116,396	85,342	73.3%	48,454	12,043	\$484,092,357.27
NORTH DAKOTA	47,478	0.27%	24,743	0.28%	6,656	0.24%	6,036	4,745	78.6%	2,888	658	\$33,614,075.93
OHIO	654,362	3.69%	304,264	3.49%	87,739	3.10%	80,417	59,656	74.2%	35,420	6,233	\$374,823,485.93
OKLAHOMA	278,538	1.55%	139,615	1.60%	50,158	1.77%	46,546	32,428	69.7%	17,283	3,982	\$185,882,179.80
OREGON	259,913	1.45%	126,315	1.45%	29,317	1.04%	26,810	20,089	74.9%	11,656	1,879	\$132,497,507.52
PENNSYLVANIA	667,100	3.73%	295,528	3.39%	79,055	2.79%	71,774	53,477	74.5%	39,440	7,221	\$368,336,585.52
PUERTO RICO	76,178	0.43%	56,096	0.64%	22,776	0.81%	21,907	16,495	75.3%	5,986	1,055	\$100,119,659.53
RHODE ISLAND	53,256	0.30%	23,761	0.27%	6,880	0.24%	6,292	4,620	73.4%	3,069	670	\$27,941,284.01
SOUTH CAROLINA	387,636	2.17%	204,536	2.35%	73,969	2.62%	67,935	47,003	69.2%	25,046	5,640	\$255,395,885.43
SOUTH DAKOTA	63,362	0.36%	36,646	0.42%	10,032	0.36%	9,221	7,332	79.5%	3,887	784	\$46,859,345.66
TENNESSEE	430,162	2.39%	220,204	2.53%	73,072	2.58%	67,242	49,260	73.3%	26,825	5,882	\$304,681,688.24
TEXAS	1,528,655	8.61%	830,510	9.54%	318,871	11.27%	292,852	211,152	72.1%	115,549	26,695	\$1,239,989,903.06
UTAH	127,944	0.72%	60,075	0.69%	18,936	0.67%	17,424	13,290	76.3%	8,146	2,073	\$85,067,629.49
VERMONT	37,446	0.21%	17,197	0.20%	3,350	0.12%	3,023	2,281	75.5%	1,563	316	\$15,768,098.58
VIRGINIA	678,149	3.80%	316,335	3.63%	116,315	4.11%	107,556	83,179	77.3%	53,031	14,732	\$469,516,459.54
WASHINGTON	502,026	2.80%	224,219	2.58%	62,294	2.20%	56,983	43,366	76.1%	30,814	7,297	\$271,367,969.61
WEST VIRGINIA	120,913	0.68%	64,990	0.75%	18,221	0.64%	16,660	12,177	73.1%	5,753	1,112	\$80,635,242.93
WISCONSIN	319,124	1.81%	152,464	1.75%	43,129	1.52%	39,803	30,546	76.7%	16,229	2,987	\$193,977,595.99
WYOMING	44,834	0.25%	24,987	0.29%	7,354	0.26%	6,703	5,137	76.6%	2,764	561	\$35,144,531.05
U.S. TERRITORIES, FREELY ASSOC. STATES, AND PHILIPPINES												
AMERICAN SAMOA	1,444	<0.10%	1,030	<0.10%	523	<0.10%	486	273	56.2%	123	<10	\$1,775,857.62
COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	825	<0.10%	573	<0.10%	222	<0.10%	201	141	70.1%	81	18	\$747,788.60
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	—	—	89	<0.10%	58	<0.10%	42	14	33.3%	<10	<10	\$218,113.76
GUAM	1,799	<0.10%	6,290	<0.10%	4,288	0.15%	3,796	2,672	70.4%	1,305	384	\$23,359,151.51
MARSHALL ISLANDS	—	—	13	<0.10%	14	<0.10%	12	<10	25.0%	<10	<10	\$21,998.48
PALAU	—	—	64	<0.10%	44	<0.10%	41	22	53.7%	<10	<10	\$230,725.63
PHILIPPINES	—	—	8,621	0.10%	—	—	—	—	—	528	136	—
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	1,564	<0.10%	2,182	<0.10%	739	<0.10%	724	517	71.4%	206	50	\$3,401,042.11
UNKNOWN/FOREIGN	619	<0.01%	33,234	0.38%	19,846	0.70%	18,241	14,216	77.9%	4,926	1,503	\$111,005,766.21
TOTALS	17,832,280	100%	8,706,731	100%	2,829,134	100%	2,594,544	1,908,529	73.6%*	1,093,773	234,839	\$11,982,764,732.60

*This column is the overall approval rate for claims. This column does not total to 100% like the other percentage columns in this chart.

Page One

Metric/Term

Total PACT Act Related Claims Approved
Approval Rate for PACT Act Related Claims since 08/10/22 (percentage)
Total Veterans / Survivors with Approved PACT Act Related Claims

Total Veterans with Approved PACT Act Related Claims
Total Survivors with Approved PACT Act Related Claims
Total Veterans / Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims

Total Veterans with Completed PACT Act Related Claims
Total Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims
New Enrollees in the PACT Act Planning Population

PACT Act Planning Population

VHA Trust

Total New VHA Enrollees
Cumulative Total: PACT Act Related Claims Submitted
Cumulative Total: PACT Act Related Claims Completed
Total PACT Act Benefits Paid

Total Toxic Exposure Screenings

Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed at least 1 Potential Exposure

Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed 1 Potential Exposure

Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed more than 1 Potential Exposure

Definition

This metric identifies the number of completed PACT disability claims where at least one issue was granted.
Percentage of PACT act disability claims where at least one condition was granted (regardless of whether or not the condition was filed under PACT).
This metric identifies the unique number of Veterans and Survivors who have filed a PACT Act benefit claim which has been approved. Please note: The Total Veterans/Survivors with Approved PACT Act Related Claims will not equal the sum of the Veterans and Survivors individual metrics because some Veterans have dual spouse (e.g., they are a Veterans themselves as well as a Survivor of a deceased Veteran Spouse). Also, the metric PACT Act Related Claims Approved and Total Veterans / Survivors with Approved PACT Act Related Claims do not have the same total because a Veteran or Survivor may have filed more than one claim.
This metric identifies the unique number of Veterans who filed a PACT Act benefit claim which has been approved.
This metric identifies the unique number of Survivors who filed a PACT Act benefit claim which has been approved.
This metric identifies the unique number of Veterans and Survivors who have filed a PACT Act benefit claim which VBA processed to completion. Please note: The Total Veterans/Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims will not equal the sum of the Veterans and Survivors individual metrics because some Veterans have dual spouse (e.g., they are a Veterans themselves as well as a Survivor of a deceased Veteran Spouse). Also, the metric PACT Act Related Claims Completed and Total Veterans / Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims do not have the same total because a Veteran or Survivor may have filed more than one claim.
This metric identifies the unique number of Veterans who filed a PACT Act benefit claim which VBA processed to completion.
This metric identifies the unique number of Survivors who filed a PACT Act benefit claim which VBA processed to completion.
This statistic measures the number of new enrollees in VA health care that fall within the PACT Act Planning Population to understand the impact of the PACT Act on enrollment. By design, this more focused metric will always be a subset of the metric above that shows overall new enrollment regardless of whether a Veteran is in an eligible PACT Act cohort. Together these two enrollment metrics help identify both the broad impact of PACT Act on enrollment - for example, those who may enroll for VA health care because of the publicity of PACT Act but are not directly eligible because of PACT Act—and the more direct impact of PACT Act—meaning those who are enrolling from populations VA assesses as becoming eligible due to the PACT Act.
The PACT Act Planning Population consists of Veterans where VA has a high level of confidence they are a member of one or more of the three PACT Act eligible cohorts (Vietnam, Gulf-War, Post 9-11). VA is using this population as a means of identifying the impact of the PACT Act on enrollment in VA health care.
This trust score reflects the percentage of Veterans who respond to the survey question, "I trust the VHA [Facility Name] for my health care needs" with a score of 4 or 5.
This statistic identifies the total new VHA enrollments (newly registered healthcare beneficiaries) for the specified time periods.
This statistic identifies the total number of VBA benefits claims with at least one PACT Act related condition received since August 10, 2022.
This statistic identifies the total number of VBA claims with at least one PACT Act related condition completed since August 10, 2022.
Total dollar amount of retroactive benefits payments paid out under PACT disability claims (regardless of whether the award was specific to the conditions filed under PACT).
This statistic identifies the number of Veterans who have received a VHA Toxic Exposure Screening. Every Veteran enrolled in VA health care will receive an initial screening and a follow-up screening at least once every 5 years. Veterans who are not enrolled and who meet eligibility requirements will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.
This statistic identifies the number of VHA Toxic Exposure Screenings where a Veteran identified at least one exposure to toxic substances. It includes the number of Veterans who received the screening, the number of Veterans who identified at least one potential concern related to a toxic exposure, and the percentage of responses in which Veterans identified at least one instance of toxic exposure during the screening.
This statistic identifies the number of VHA Toxic Exposure Screenings where a Veteran identified exactly one exposure to toxic substances. Please note the difference from the metric above – the metric above includes Veterans who identified at least one (includes both those who identified one exposure and also those who identified more than one exposure); this metric only includes Veterans who identify exactly one exposure.
This statistic identifies the number of VHA Toxic Exposure Screenings where a Veteran identified more than one exposure to toxic substances. Please note the difference from the metric above—the metric above includes Veterans who identify exactly one potential concern; this metric includes Veterans who identify more than one potential concern.
The screening will ask Veterans if they think they were exposed to any of these hazards while serving: Open burn pits and other airborne hazards, Gulf War-related exposures, Agent Orange Radiation, Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure and/or Other Exposures.

Geographical

Metric/Term

Veterans in State
Total PACT Act Related Claims Received
Percentage of Total PACT Act Related Claims Received
Approval Rate for PACT Act Related Claims (percentage)
Veterans Currently Enrolled with VA for Care
New Enrollees
Total PACT Act Claims Completed
Total PACT Act Claims Approved
New Enrollees enrolled with a PACT Act Authority

Definition

This statistic identifies the number of Veterans in a particular location. This is a projection as of 09/30/2022. This projection is not subdivided for U.S. territories, Freely Associated States, and Philippines; this population is aggregated.
This statistic identifies the total number of VBA benefit claims with at least one PACT Act-related condition separated by state of residence.
This statistic identifies the percentage of VBA benefit claims with at least one PACT Act related condition received in a particular state divided by the overall number of PACT Act related claims received.
Percentage of PACT act disability claims where at least one condition was granted (regardless of whether or not the condition was filed under PACT) calculated by state of residence.
This statistic identifies the number of Veterans enrolled in VHA healthcare who have a permanent address in a particular state. (This does not include those Veterans who do not have a permanent address or those with a permanent address outside the 50 states).
This statistic identifies the number of Veterans newly enrolled in VHA healthcare who have a permanent address in a particular state. (This does not include those Veterans who do not have a permanent address or those with a permanent address outside the 50 states).
This statistic identifies the total number of completed VBA benefit claims with at least one PACT Act-related condition separated by state of residence.
This statistic identifies the total number of approved VBA benefit claims with at least one PACT Act-related condition separated by state of residence.
This metric measures the number of new enrollees who were specifically enrolled with an authority provided by the PACT Act (PL 117-168). This includes 1-year Special Eligibility, 10-Year Special Eligibility, Agent Orange Exposure, and Radiation Exposure. For more on information on eligibility for enrollment, please visit www.va.gov/pact. VA utilizes a number of authorities to enroll Veterans, both authorities granted in the PACT Act and pre-existing authorities. VA applies the authority that will result in the Veteran being placed into the highest priority group possible.

Further Geographic Explanations

Symbol (–)
U.S. territories, Freely Associated States, and Philippines
Unknown/Foreign
<10 Privacy Threshold

This symbol indicates that data is unavailable.

U.S. territories, Freely Associated States, and Philippines group includes claims from Veterans and Survivors residing in the following locations: American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Philippines, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Unknown/Foreign group includes Veterans and Survivors with a foreign address or where state of residence information is currently unavailable.

To maintain Veteran and Survivor privacy, receipts and enrollments <10 cannot be publicly shared.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2025 – 2026
September 2025 Communication

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



Membership



I know by now, you all have gotten your membership drive programs up and running. Are you doing a letter campaign for renewals? Are you offering a family fun day at your Post to bring members in to renew? Have you sent out email reminders? There are many ways you can run a membership drive program and if you did, I would love to see and/or hear what you did – please email or text me pics of your drives, share what you did!

And as we equate Membership recruiting to fishing – know that fishing isn't about luck, it's about PRESENCE – as in being in the moment. A fisherman's mindset is to be consistent, be visible – they make every cast counts – they don't just throw the rod in to see what they pull up (well not the good fishermen anyway!).

With you as the "fisherman" of membership, you could have a friend, a neighbor, or a family member who is eligible and not realize it – be curious when casting out that line. You may even have to wade in the waters a bit to help guide a potential new member – let them know they don't have to swim in alone. Know the waters (listening and observing) and when the moment is right to approach someone to see if they're interested. Our auxiliary fishing boat has plenty of room for anyone interested in joining us and serving our veterans in need!

So...in case you didn't pick up on all the "nuances" of what I just said, here's the fish fry version: We get so busy with our own lives, sometimes we don't stay in moment. You could have someone you've known for years, that knows all about your "hobby" and is interested, but didn't quite know how to broach the subject. You may just have the next best member for your auxiliary standing right by you – get that net out and scoop them up! Keep up the great work and see you an Official Visit soon! Plan on having some fishing fun!!

NEW MEMBERSHIP GOAL CHALLENGE!

I hope lots of you hit the 80% marker to receive \$20 for your auxiliary by August 31, but now there's a new challenge in town!

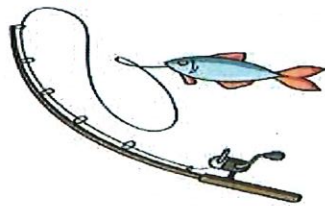
AUXILIARIES WILL RECEIVE \$30 FOR HITTING 90% IN MEMBERSHIP BY SEPTEMBER 30!



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

"Forever Serving Veterans"

I REELED IN...



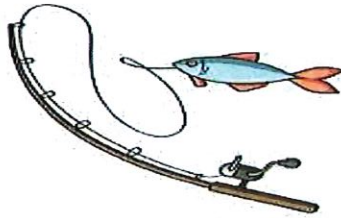
Just 1One

I RECRUITED ONE NEW MEMBER
TO THE VFW AUXILIARY

Name of Recruit

Name of Member & Aux #

I REELED IN...



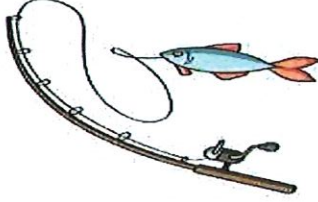
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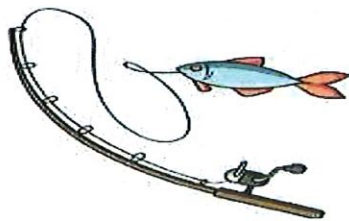
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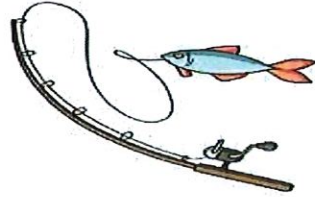
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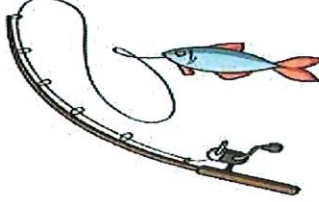
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Name of Recruit

Name of Member & Aux #



That didn't get away!

I Recruited Just One New
Life Member



Name of New Life Member

Name of Member & Aux #



That didn't get away!

I Recruited Just One New
Life Member



Name of New Life Member

Name of Member & Aux #



That didn't get away!

I Recruited Just One New
Life Member



Name of New Life Member

Name of Member & Aux #



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That didn't get away!

I Recruited Just One New
Life Member



Name of New Life Member

Name of Member & Aux #

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT September 2025

Mary Ryan Sandman
176 Patty Bowker Rd.
Tabernacle, NJ 08088
(609) 456-1774
maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

Happy September!

September has quite a few Awarenesses this month and a few Special Days.

September 11th is MPN Awareness Day. This day is to increase public knowledge about MPN, a group of blood cancers.

September 12th is Stand Up To Cancer Day. This was originally started to create Cancer Awareness. This day has been observed since 2008. This year's Stand Up To Cancer event was held on August 15th in Nashville. So far Stand Up To Cancer events have raised over \$800 Million for Cancer research.

September 15th is World Lymphoma Awareness Day. It is dedicated to raising awareness of lymphoma. This type of cancer is an increasingly common form of cancer. This started in 2004 to raise public awareness of both Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in terms of symptoms, early diagnosis, and treatment. Do you know what lymph nodes do? They are small bean-shaped glands that filter fluid, producing and storing immune cells, trapping cancer cells, and responding to infections.

September 16th is Take a Loved One To The Doctor Day. This day is for the caregiver. If you have a caregiver for someone in your life, why not reach out to them and see if they could use some help for a few hours or even the day?

September is Childhood Cancer, Uterine Cancer, Gynecological Cancer, Blood Cancer, Thyroid Cancer, Ovarian Cancer, and Prostate Cancer Awareness.

I am not going to go through each one. But if something seems out of the ordinary, please contact your Doctor.

Remember to send donations in to Department Treasurer Paula Pinto and earmark them for President's Special Project.



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

September 2025

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

September is Suicide Prevention month.

The mental health of veterans and the military community should not be 'the focus' for only one month a year, but every month and every day of the year. Why? Because combat veterans and service members struggle 365 days a year with terrifying thoughts, dreams, and visions. They may not physically be in a combat zone, but their mind still is. Their "demons" are still fighting and haunting them. Fellow veterans can relate, no matter if they are current conflict, or Vietnam, or Korea, or the few remaining WWII. They all have seen, done, and felt the same.

Even after they take off their boots for the last time, the battle has not ended. It has become a different type of battle. A battle within themselves. This fight tends to distance the veteran/service member from family and friends because they will not understand – "you were not there". A phrase many have heard. A phrase that stuns and leaves one wondering what to do.

So, what to do? Look for the 5 warning signs:

- (1) personality change – can be sudden or gradual changes from their typical behavior
- (2) agitation – seems uncharacteristically angry, anxious, agitated, or moody
- (3) withdrawal – withdrawn or isolated from others; pulling away from family and friends
- (4) poor self-care – stop taking care of themselves and/or engage in risky behavior, and
- (5) hopelessness – feeling overwhelmed and overcome with their situation

Many veterans will say they are fine or provide an answer that they think you want to hear or just yell and walk away. If their response leaves an uncomfortable feeling or doubt, do not turn away but suggest seeking assistance. Knowing the warning signs can possibly stop a veteran from ending their life. Help is a call or text away 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at 988 (Press 1)! This crisis line connects not just the veteran, but their family and friends.

Let us work to reduce the number of veterans who choose to end their life, from 20. It is astonishing to know that most of the veterans who succumb to the thought of attempting suicide are older or have not deployed to a combat zone. The reports of most

suicides are younger veterans are not necessarily the fact. It just proves that it can be anyone at any age at any time.

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary are working together to change the narrative and stigma surrounding mental health. The VFW has teamed up with nationwide organizations to combat this critical issue. Some of the organizations are: Give an Hour, the Campaign to Change Direction, One Mind, PatientsLikeMe, and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. To learn more about these organizations, please go to the VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>.

September is also Service Dog Awareness month.

Service dogs, therapy dogs, and emotional support dogs have proven to assist and support people with various disabilities, and mental conditions. They have improved the lives of veterans by mitigating the effects of PTSD and can reduce anxiety and other related conditions.

There are a few ways that service dogs can help veterans are:

- (1) recognize the early signs of anxiety or panic and interrupt the escalation by nudging or other methods
- (2) create a physical barrier around the veteran in public settings
- (3) interrupt a nightmare by providing comfort
- (4) retrieve items, open doors or provide balance for veterans with mobility issues
- (5) foster a sense of companionship by providing opportunities for social interaction so a veteran is not feeling socially isolated

There are numerous organizations that provide service dogs for veterans. Yes, there are eligibility criteria, training, and costs. Reach out to the organizations for their specific requirements. Also, there are advocacy efforts and legislative initiatives that are working to expand access of service dogs to veterans with PTSD.

September! A month that recognizes service dogs that can help prevent suicide in veterans. One hand holding onto one paw!





Back to School

The kids will be going back to school and now is a good time to get your programs into the schools, whether regular, parochial, private or nurse school. We as auxiliaries have a lot to offer.

Working with Youth Groups

Now is a good time good time to get in contact with your local scout groups. Invite them to your programs, include them in activities that you do and support them as well. Not only are there scouts, but also other youth groups in your community: church groups, sport groups and clubs that kids like to belong to.



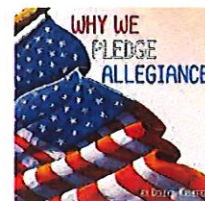
Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans

There are many youth who help their community and also work to help Veterans. Find out which groups do this and invite them to your auxiliary and post to get to know our veterans and what they sacrificed for them and our country. there are many ways in which we can involve them with our own activities.



Book of the Month Patriotism through Literacy

Children loved to be read to, especially the younger children. Find a daycare or nurse school near you and purchase a book and read to them and then donate the book to said nurse school or daycare.



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.

Also, next month look for crafts to do for children. Do them with your grandchildren, children or go to a nurse school or schools in you area and work with the children. Remember to start thinking about Illustrating American Art contest, get those applications run off and bring them to your local libraries to circulate them.

WHEN YOU LET THE
YOUTH LEAD,
YOU WILL LEARN
THINGS ABOUT THEM
YOU NEVER KNEW AND
DISCOVER SKILLS AND
TALENTS YOU DIDN'T
KNOW THEY HAD.

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

*During a time like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives really mean to us....
Your expression of sympathy will always
be remembered*

Our families want to thank those of you who remembered him in prayer, cards, emails, messages, phone calls and yes, your presence at the viewing and on the day, we laid him to rest.

I want to thank VFW Auxiliary 3525 for their final salute to Vince, to VFW District 18 Officers and Vince's PTSD group who performed their services.

Last but never forgotten, my VFW Post 3525 who extended their hospitality and their calls to me, thank you.

*With gratitude and sincerity,
Deborah McLendon, Katie Munger and Stephanie Mazzarone
Our Granddaughters and Families*

John Hinker's Homecoming Refund

If anyone purchased a ticket for John Hinker's Homecoming

Please call or e-mail him with your ticket number and he will

Refund your money.

Phone – 609-425-5068

E-mail – HinkerVFW@gmail.com

Loyally

Gloria Lisicki

President

DIRECTORY CHANGES SEPTEMBER 2025

Page 33	President Auxiliary 2179 Carol Struskiewicz 910 State Rte 36, Unit 314 Hazlet, NJ 07730 732-670-3311
Page 33	President Auxiliary 2226 Patricia Drescher 4 Jessica Pl. Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750 732-915-7977
Page 33	Secretary Auxiliary 2226 Lynn Myskowski 13 Eton Pl. Eatontown, NJ 07724 732-272-8965
Page 37	ADDRESS CHANGE President 3324 21 Wilson Ave. Bellmawr, NJ 08031
Page 37	ADDRESS CHANGE Secretary 3324 116 Sixth Ave. Glendora, NJ 08029

VFW AUXILIARY DISTRICT 15
600 Washington Ave
Manville, New Jersey

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Dear Auxiliary Members,

Madam President Gloria Lisicki will be making her official visit to District 15 on Monday September 8, 2024 at VFW Post 2290, 600 Washington Ave, Manville, NJ.

The meeting will start at 7 PM.

There will be light refreshments served.

If you have any questions, please call me at 908.581.5601.

Cindy Dilks
District President



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M	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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3XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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