



September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023,

POW/MIA/KIA DAY

**(MORE THAN LETTERS)**

This is a great time to host a community event such as a BBQ, a meet and great with our veterans. Letting our community know exactly what these letters stand for and they are not just letters. Hold a POW ceremony! A small speech on why we have this presentation, then have the presentation of the POW/MIA ceremony.

Remember your Patriot Holidays

*Patriot Day: September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
*Constitutions Day: September 17, 2023*  
*POW/MIA Recognition Day: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
*Gold Star Family's Day: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
*Veterans Day: November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
*Pearl Harbor Day: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
*Presidents Day: February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*Loyalty Day: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024*  
*V-E Day: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*Arm Forces Day: May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*Memorial Day: May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*Flag Day: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*Independence Day: July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024*



The Gold Star symbol began during World War I. At the start of the American involvement in 1917, families hung banners with blue stars representing family members in the services. If the service member died in combat, the family changed the blue star to gold.

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, are your invitations sent out to the families to welcome to the VFW to have luncheon? Invite families of the area along with the gold, blue and silver star families, ask the families if they would like to speak at this

luncheon. Open the luncheon with the meaning of the stars for the guest. This is a great occasion to partner with the VFW and or the district.

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# AUXILIARY OUTREACH

**“STAND UP, SPEAK OUT”**

**“BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS”**

**VOLUME 23. ISSUE 2**

**JULY 2023**

## **HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP TO PARTNER WITH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**

**CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS, ANIMAL SHELTERS, SOUP  
KITCHENS, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS,” CURE FOR CANCER RUNS”, ETC.**



## **HOW TO MAKE OUR AUXILIARY OUTREACH A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM!**

- **SEARCH FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION, FIND OUT THEIR NEEDS**
- **BRING THE IDEA TO YOUR AUXILIARY MEETING**
- **VOTE ON THE FLOOR OF YOUR MEETING**
- **ENSURE IT'S IN YOUR SECRETARY MINUTES**
- **PARTNER WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION**
- **GET YOUR AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS**
- **WEAR YOUR VFW AUXILIARY ATTIRE, HAT, SHIRT, ETC.**
- **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME FOR THEIR EVENT**
- **KEEP TRACK OF YOUR HOURS AND NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS**
- **TAKE PICTURES, VIDEOS**
- **REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE**

**REMEMBER: OUR GOAL IS TO VOLUNTEER OUR TIME, OUR  
“LABOR OF LOVE”, FOR ANOTHER ORGANIZATIONS PROJECT.**

Approved By:  
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Teresa Bachand

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VFW

# BUDDY POPPY

*July 2023*

*Volume 1 Issue 2*

## ***Boot Camp "School of Instruction"***

August 2022 marked 100 years since VFW declared the poppy as the official VFW Flower.

Let's celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Patent of the Buddy Poppy"

(Registered February 1924, Trademark granted May 20, 1924)

Bring your Buddy Poppy Display to boot camp, and show your celebration of the anniversary, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place certificates will be presented to the most creative way of celebrating.



**This display is not associated with the "Buddy Poppy" contest held in October at "Fall Round-up."**



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## HISTORIAN MEDIA RELATIONS

### Celebrate our Auxiliary Legacy Members

Record a 3-5 minute interview video with a long standing, active member.

- Greet and introduce the Legacy members with some details about them.
- Ask how they joined?
- Ask why they joined, and what has kept them an active member?
- Place emphasis on bringing the past to life.
- Let them show pictures of themselves and their Veterans.
- Let them tell you some of their favorite moments.
- Ask them to show you a few items that they are most proud of.
- If you cannot locate a Legacy member in your Auxiliary, look to your District.



- Submit your video and entry form to the Department Chairman by March 31, 2024.
- The winning video will be shown at the National convention in 2024.

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# HOSPITAL PROGRAM

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

July 2023 Volume 23 Issue 2

Start your year off by contribution to Hospital Pledge- \$.70 per member as of your June 30th membership obligation goes to help offset the cost of travel and expenses that all our VAVS Reps and their Deputies do to provide care and support to our VA Facilities and Veterans.

*All Auxiliaries have been successful with Hospital Programs, if you would like to share your success, send along details and they will be*

**We are all ..... “Banding Together for Veterans”**

**Volunteers, Recruitment, Recognition, Support** – Start planning your program early, recruit members to identify where you want to focus – Hospital, Nursing Homes, Members needed to make items, collect, deliver, or donate to veterans. Support your volunteers by hosting a luncheon, recognize those who volunteer with a volunteer pin.

**Valentines for Veterans** – Dollar Tree has hearts that can be painted red and attach a Buddy Poppy to it. Check with local Nursing Home/Assisted Living to see how many veterans in residence, also the Hospital a few days before.

Let's not forget other holidays to touch Veterans with a card, Veterans Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, they will know they are not forgotten.

Help our VAS Representatives-send them cards or a special donations to support Veterans

**Women Veterans Health Care** – Set aside a special day for Women Veterans and host an informational Women's Veterans Health format. Check out this website, lots of information on programs [CenterforWomenVeterans@messages.va.gov](mailto:CenterforWomenVeterans@messages.va.gov), or [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov).

**Honors Escort** – Reach out to your local VA and non-VA facilities, Nursing Homes/Assisted Living, let them know about Auxiliary Honors Escort to develop a plan that works for your auxiliary. Reach out to the Hospital Pastors to determine if they have a program for Veterans, and explain what our honors program does to honor all Veterans.

## Department Year End Dept Special Awards:

### 1. Award to one Auxiliary

- a. with the most outstanding initiation of an Honor Escort program, in a hospital or nursing home.
- b. most creative Valentines to Veterans in a nursing home or assisted living facility.
- c. hosts the most outstanding educational seminar for education on women's veteran programs.

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# LEGISLATIVE

Volume 2023

Issue 2

July 2023

**Our VFW Auxiliary Florida  
Department President  
Teresa Bachand**

**Motto is for all of us to:**

**“Stand up Speak Out”**

**Legislative is a very  
important way for each  
one of our Auxiliary  
members to have a voice  
for our Veterans.**

**We joined the VFW  
Auxiliary to serve our  
Veterans.**

**Let's Do it Now!**



The **Florida Legislative** is one of three branches of government in Florida.

The other two are the Executive and Judicial. The Senate is composed of 40 members, each elected from single districts across the state. The Florida Legislative meets in session every year for sixty consecutive days.

**Educate** yourself on who in you state of Florida represents you and your vote.

**The VFW's Action Corps is the VFW's grassroots lobbying effort. Located in communities across the globe, this group work to inform and educate veterans and service members on the initiatives and policies that affect them and take the voice of veterans to local, state, and national lawmakers.**

**Join: ACTION CORPS WEEKLY**

**Vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service.**

# Membership

Volume 23 Issue 2

July 2023

## Recruit



### Membership Pin 2023-2024

Isn't it a beautiful Pin

This pin is 4 pieces the Flag, Boots and Speaker Phone and the Cross of Malta.

**Boots** are for stand up. You will receive this at 90%.

**Speaker Phone** is for Speak out. You will receive this for 100%

**Malta** is for VFW Auxiliary. You will receive this for 100%+3.

Start Recruiting know!!!!



## Who else can you recruit?



Do not forget Step-and adopted parents and Children siblings (and half siblings), Grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW eligible veteran.



Same sex marriage includes their spouse. Same sex marriage signed into federal law in 2015.



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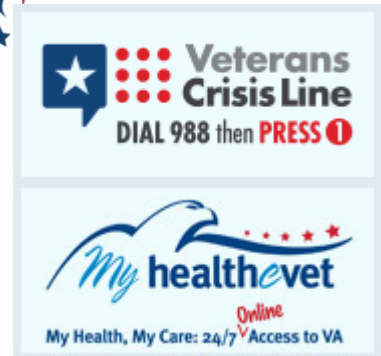
# DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECT

Volume 23 Issue 2

July 2023

## Women Veteran Health

- No matter where a women veteran lives, she has access to VA health system which provides care to 1,255 health facilities including 170 VA Medical Centers and 1,074 Outpatient clinics.
- Every VA Medical Center has a Women Veterans Program Manager to advise and advocate for women Veterans and help coordinate all the services they may need
- Every VA offers maternity care coordination. VA Maternity Care Coordinators understand women Veteran's unique needs and supports them throughout the pregnancy
- VHA provides the highest quality, state-of-the-art systems and healthcare equipment, including on-site mammography at 69 sites across the country.



## Military Sexual Trauma Awareness

### What is Military Sexual Assault?

According to Department of Defense, sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim.

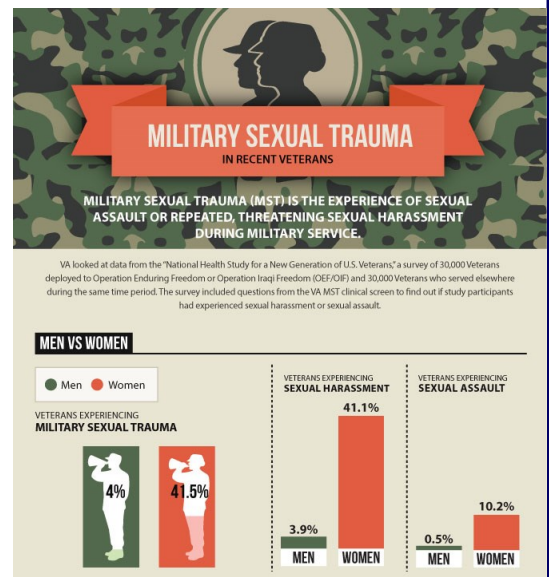
Sexual harassment is a leading factor affecting the unit climate on sexual assault.

### VA Services provided related to MST

- MST coordinator at every VA medical facility to serve as a contact person who can

assist in accessing care

- MST-related outpatient services at every VA medical center and many VA community-based outpatient clinics.
- Mental health services, including psychological assessment & evaluation, medication evaluation and treatment and individual and group psychotherapy
- MST-related outpatient counseling through VA's community-based Vet Centers
- MST-related treatment in VA's residential or inpatient programs for individuals who need intensive treatment and support.



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## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **“ STAND UP, SPEAK OUT”**



**VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2**

**JULY 2023**

#### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO-ESSAY**

**Starting out the new year with new officers and new committee chairman, it is ultimately important to get the right person for the right Chairmanship. Scholarships is very important and needs a go-getter. You have to get out to the schools and get the teachers to understand just how advantageous the scholarships that the VFW Auxiliary offers are. And the importance of getting the Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay entries back to the Auxiliary by the due date. And that due date comes up real fast in the year. So put October 31, 2023 as the date. But start reminding the teachers at least two weeks before that date.**



#### **PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST How Are You Inspired by America**

**This contest for our middle school students. And is important because this is the age of wonder for a lot of children. They are at the in-between age. And guiding them in the right direction is so important. Spend some time with the teachers and always ask if there is any way you could help them to get the essays done. I'm sure it wouldn't take much time out of your day.**

**Here are some very important facts that you might be surprised at. In the state of Florida there are 2,227 High Schools and of them 1,485 are public and 742 are private. And as far as Middle Schools there 605 public schools and I haven't even got the count of private middle schools there are. So now you know how big a job to get to these schools it will be. But just think how many students you can get to.**

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# Veterans & Family Support

Volume 23-24

Issue 2

July/August 2023

**SAVE THIS DATE**  
**AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> 2023**



## ***Boot Camp***

**"School of Instruction"**



***Calling all Ladies & Gents***

**PROGRAM Fair & PRESENTATIONS**



## ***Come Meet Princess Bumblina***

**"AKA~ Your Veterans & Family Support Chairman"**

**WHO?**

**YES YOU!!!**



**Learn ways YOU Can BEE the CHANGE**  
**For Veterans & the Military & their Families**  
**time to**

***Stand Up & Speak Out***

**Make your Donation \$\$\$ Matter!!!!**

### **Coming in September:**

**National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

**Gold Star Mother's & Family Day ~ 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

**VFW Birthday ~ 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. {Estab~1899}**

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# Youth Activities

**“Stand Up, Speak Out”**

**Volume 1, Issue 2**

**“Banding Together for Our Veterans”**

**July 2023**

## **PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY**

- Volunteer: Read books to children
- Donate historical books to: schools, shelters, libraries
- Host a read-a-thon
- Award and reward
- Teach children about American History

How can I participate in Patriotism through Literacy?

- ✓ Volunteer to read historical or creative nonfiction picture books to kids at your local library.
- ✓ Donate historical fiction or creative nonfiction books to schools, shelters or libraries.
- ✓ Host a read-a-thon and award small prizes (stickers, pins) for number of books or hours read.
- ✓ Beginning with our youngest youth, kindergartners, first and second graders, we can instill in them the importance of our Flag, how our country was formed, why we say the Pledge and who our first President was.



## **CREATING, SUPPORTING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS**

Activities that assist and work with veterans and their families provide a vital source of community involvement for youth groups. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church youth groups, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and school-sponsored clubs are just a few groups that can benefit from our involvement.

Show these youth that we care. Invite a group to participate in some of our Auxiliary activities:

- Deliver groceries to a disabled veteran.
- Help a veteran with yard work and take the trash to the curb.
- Visit nursing homes or hospitals.

**Back to School will be coming soon. Hold an event to collect School supplies for our Youth.**

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