

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Volume 23~24

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February 2024

January is Mental Health Month
Holidays are over Its Time to Recharge...
Find Purpose... Volunteer

January 15th Martin Luther King Jr “A Day of Service”

Assemble Troop Boxes ~ Conduct Food Drives/Couponing ~ Support housing for Unsheltered Veterans ~
Fundraise for MAP (Military Assistance Program), Unmet Needs, & NVS (National Veterans Service) ~ Assist
Caregivers ~ Valentines for VA Nursing Homes & Residents at Veterans Village in Ft. McCoy

Support President

Teresa Bachand's

SPECIAL PROJECT

Report this project under both

- PSP ~ a Dept. of Florida ONLY Program
- VFS ~a National Program

Support Women Veterans!!! SHE WEARS THE BOOTS

Promote Call Center, Connect them to Available BENEFITS & Eligibility
Where they can Discuss issues like Maternity & Gynecological Care, Homelessness,
Infertility, Caregiver Support, Environmental Exposure, & Military Sexual Trauma



!!!

**Women Veterans In Crisis
Call Veterans Crisis Line**



Upcoming Events:

Jan 15th ~MLK Jr. Day of Service

Feb 4th ~Florida Auxiliary Appreciation Day

Feb 12th-17th ~National Mid - Winter Cruise ~ from Port Canaveral, Fl.

5 night Cruise to Cozumel & CocoCay Bahamas

\$150 per Person Contact VFW Travel Service (VTS)

Call 800-325-9377 to reserve a spot

Feb 22nd-25th~National President's Visit (held in the Ocala Area)

March 23rd ~ Veteran's Village Annual Picnic ~

Jean Lockwood VFS Chairman
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February 2024

February ~YEAR END REVIEW~ Making Wishes Come True!!!

"The Did You Do List"

- ✓ *Did You Adopt a Military Family or a Troop for the Holidays*
- ✓ *Fundraise &/or Send Donations to National Veterans Service(NVS) or Military Map*
 - ✓ *Did You Run Errands for Spouses & Caregivers*
 - ✓ *Did You Volunteer Time & Services to Veterans Village Ft. McCoy*
 - ✓ *Did You Support or Conduct Activities for Presidents Special Project*

Looking for your reports & checking it twice

Visit NVS to learn more - www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits

Connect Service Officers to help Veterans & the Military with filing claims

for disability, rehab, pension programs & death benefits

as well as education, employment & training

help navigate the VA to receive hospital & outpatient care,

female veterans to receive specialized health care,

alcohol & drug dependency programs,

medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service,

exposure to Agent Orange, radiation or other environmental hazards

These Service Officers deserve our support !!!!

March 13 is K9 Veterans Day – Honor our military dog's service ~ recognize our local organization that works with service dogs & veterans Like K9 for Warriors & Southeastern Guide Dogs

Conduct a Dog Food & Supplies Drive & donate to a local shelter



March 29th is Vietnam Veterans Day- Be sure to tell our Vietnam Veterans "WELCOME HOME"

Tell them you Appreciate them & THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE !!!

Approved By:

Teresa Bachand

Department President

Jean Lockwood VFS Chairman

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**More Than
Prisoners Of
Missing In**



**Letters
War
Action**

Remains Of WW II Found

Military scientists have identified the remains of an Indiana soldier who died in World War II when the tank he was commanding was struck by an anti-tank round during a battle in Germany.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting agency says that the remains of U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Gene F. Walker of Richmond, Indiana, were identified in July, nearly 79 years after his death.

Walker was 27 and commanded an M4 Sherman tank in November 1944 when his unit battled German forces near Huchen, Germany, and his tank was struck by an anti-tank round.

His remains will be buried in San Diego, California, in early 2024. DPAA said Walker's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands, and a rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

We as an Auxiliary can keep the memory of our Veterans going. We keep promoting the fact that they are more than just POW/MIA, they are our Veterans, and they are/were, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action.

More and more Veterans are found and identified, brought home to be buried alongside their loved ones.

American Flag

The Flag stands for honor, respect, and gratitude; and many more meanings; Promoting this within your community and reminding those why we fly the flag will keep the honor for our Veterans and their memory alive.

Remember to have year end reports by March 31st, 2024.

Approved By:
Teresa Bachand
Department President

Pauline Riddle/Mary Ellen Cash
Americanism/Patriot Instructor
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AUXILIARY OUTREACH

"Stand up, Speak Out"
Volume 23-24, Issue 9

"Banding Together for Our Veterans"
February 2024



MR. VALENTINE HAS A
BIG HEART FOR HIS
COMMUNITY. HE IS
LOOKING FOR YOUR
"LABOR OF LOVE"

DEADLINE!!!!

AWARD FORMS ARE DUE TO ME BY MARCH 31, 2024

Go online on our website: www.vfwauxfl.org and print
out the National Award form listed under Auxiliary
Outreach Program.

Fill it out and email it to me. OR, if you
prefer snail mail,
Sandi Hendriks

311 Waterford Heights
Debary, FL 32713

sandihendriks@yahoo.com

Questions? Call 386-748-1186

**DO NOT SEND THE FORM TO NATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS.**

WAYS TO HELP IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY:

- ✓ CANCER AND HEART
ASSOC. RUNS
- ✓ COMMUNITY
CENTERS
- ✓ FIRST RESPONDERS
- ✓ LOCAL SOUP
KITCHEN
- ✓ ANIMAL SHELTERS

**A SPECIAL AWARD FOR (1) AUXILIARY IN EACH
MEMBERSHIP GROUP WHO VOLUNTEERS THE MOST
AUXILIARY COMMUNITY HOURS WITH ANOTHER NON-
PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

Approved By:
Teresa Bachand
Department President

Sandi Hendriks
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
sandihendriks@yahoo.com



“The Buddy Poppy”

Posts receive their profits from direct donations of the poppies to the public. National by-laws require that the profits from these sales be placed in the post's Relief Fund to be used only for the following purposes:

- For the aid, assistance, relief, and comfort of needy or disabled veterans or members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.
- For the maintenance and expansion of the VFW National Home and other facilities devoted exclusively to the benefit and welfare of the dependents, widows, and orphans of disabled, needy, or deceased veterans or members of the Armed Forces.
- For necessary expenses in providing entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the Armed Forces.
- For veterans' rehabilitation, welfare, and service work.
- To perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and to comfort survivors.

You as an Auxiliary can promote these same programs as donations from the poppies will also go into the relief fund of the Auxiliary.

The VFW National Home

The National President with the National Commander in Chief have teamed up to assist the National Home renovate the Welcome Center. Donations for this project can be made in Malta, under Gift.

Remember this is part of your “Circle of Champions”.

Have you purchased a gift of a lifetime?

A lifetime membership to the VFW National Home will assist the National Home in many ways, assisting with the families staying at the home.

Purchase of a Tribute Brick

- Purchase in memory of a love on
- Veteran from your post
- A “Thank You”, to the Post Commander.
- A “Thank You”, to the Auxiliary President

There are many ways you can pay tribute to the National Home, educate your Auxiliary, and bring this awareness to them.

Remember to have final reports in by March 31st, 2024.

Thank you, you all have done a great job with your buddy poppies.

Approved By:
Teresa Bachand
Department President

Scott Riddle
Buddy Poppy/National Home
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HISTORIAN MEDIA RELATIONS

"Banding Together for Our Veterans" "Stand Up, Speak out"



Send a snapshot of your face book posts.

1 per month, with your face book activity report submitted on the Department website.

Share your Newsletters

Add the Department Historian email address to your list if you are using email.

Forward a copy if you are using print.

SHOW US YOUR GREAT COMMUNICATIONS



BRAG! BRAG! BRAG!

Historian Challenge

Send Pictures of the National, Department, District, an/or Auxiliary Presidents posted on the wall at your Post. Have Your members in the picture as well.

Send it to me via text including your name and title. Post #, and #historyauxfl.

Due by March 20,2023.

Approved By:
Teresa Bachand
Department President

Karen Heikkila
Historian Media Relations Chairman
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HOSPITAL PROGRAM

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida February 2023/24 Volume 1 Issue 8



Looking for that pot of Gold???

You may not find it but something better by doing the Irish Jig for Veterans in facilities, put your green on and play some Irish music when visiting a Veteran, bet you can make them Laugh, and make their day special, on St. Patrick's Day everyone is Irish. That pot of Gold may just be the smiles and laughs you get to make a day special.

How you and your Auxiliary can help:

Planning ahead, getting your volunteers the resources needed to support your visits.

Suggestions you can do to support

- Have enough volunteers to participate in projects which are approved by membership.
- Check with facilities: Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Hospice to start a program to support their efforts honoring Veterans.
- Acknowledge those volunteers at facilities with a Hospital pin or certificate of appreciation.
- Budget for items you want to give, cards, dollar store items: cookies, candies, pens, note pads, ask the activity directors and volunteers at facilities what they suggest.
- Planning ahead to get your members involved sharing what you want to achieve.

DEPT AWARDS: 1) OUTSTANDING ACTIVITY AND/OR EVENT RECOGNIZES VETERANS ON NON-TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS. 2) ONE AUXILIARY ESTABLISHED HONOR ESCORT PROGRAM 3) MOST CREATIVE VALENTINES TO VETERANS IN NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING 4) HOSTS AN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR FOR EDUCATING WOMEN VETERANS.

From Della Steege, Hospital National Ambassador:

National Salute to Veteran Patients is February 11-17, 2024.

I'm encouraging everyone to work with medical centers and plan events to celebrate throughout the week.

According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, there are three main reasons behind the creation of this celebration.

- 1: To pay tribute to veterans
- 2; To encourage people to visit and volunteer their time and services to veteran medical centers.
- 3: To increase community awareness about the role of the Veterans Administration Medical Centers.

Approved By:
Teresa Bachand
Department President

Betty A. Bailey
Hospital Chairman
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LEGISLATIVE

Volume 23-24

ISSUE 9

FEBRUARY 2024

- **Be an Advocate**
- **Be Informed**
- **Be Engaged**

Always important to Vote

ALL LEGISLATIVE POWER IN THE GOVERNMENT IS
VESTED IN CONGRESS,
MEANING IT IS THE ONLY PART OF THE
GOVERNMENT THAT CAN MAKE NEW LAWS OR
CHANGE EXISTING LAWS.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES ISSUE
REGULATIONS WITH THE FULL FORCE OF LAW, BUT
THESE ARE ONLY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF LAWS
ENACTED BY CONGRESS.



WIN

Special Award to Top 3 Videos

- **Create a Video on “How we help our MEN/WOMEN VETERANS**
- **Through legislations.” Video should be 3-5 minute long and download on “YOU TUBE” Video must be posted on Auxiliary Facebook page and send to Department Legislative Chairman Jeanne Laurine by: March 31, 2024**

Approved By:
Teresa Bachand
Department President

Jeanne Laurine
LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN
JEANNELAURINE5@GMAIL.COM

January Membership



Volume 24 Issue 5

January 2024

Giving Blood

New members are the life blood to our organization. With new members come new ideas and new volunteers. To keep these new members you must invest the time and recognize there talents.

Adding new members adds new blood and energy into our organization.



**In First Place
we have
District 21,
Aux 12186.**



**In Second
place we have
District 22
Aux 9986**



**In third
Place
District 17
Aux 5405**



Southern Conference

Let's help Theresa reach her goal!

Let's Go Florida

We still need 699 new members to make 100%.

**2nd Place
Georgia
99.06%**

**1st Place
Alabama
101.71%**

**3rd Place
Florida
98.83%**

Convert to Life

Reasons why Convert to Life? You will no longer have to pay a annual fee ever year. You will save money annual memberships are going up in 2024 and life memberships will stay the same.



**2nd Place
District 8
Aux 4206
District 21
Aux 10167**

**1st place
District 11
Aux 4300**

**3rd place
District 19
Aux 8093**

Time To Make Some Calls

If you haven't called those unpaid members. Now is the time. Remind them what we do at the VFW Auxiliary. How their membership is important in helping veterans. This is also a good time to ask if they would like to volunteer at the next event.



Approved By:
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Department President

Kelly Barr
Department Membership Chairman
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SCHOLARSHIPS
“ STAND UP, SPEAK OUT”

Volume 23/24 issue 8

January 2024



Well here we go, another year is starting and we have a busy time ahead of us.

Two important contests are on the horizon.

Patriotic Art Contest

3-D Patriotic Art Contest

And being the conscientious people we are, we are staying on top of these contests.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ♦ **AGE GROUP: Grades 9-12**
- ♦ **SIZE: 8X10 to 18X24**
- ♦ **DUE DATE: March 31, To Auxiliary**
- ♦ **DUE DATE: April 15, TO CHAIRMAN**

I know I have said this repeatedly but I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping the entries safe from damage.

Be conscientious when packing the art work for transfer to me.

I promise to take care of each and every entry to the best of my ability.

Approved By:
Teresa Bachand
Department President

Ann Batson
Scholarships Chairman
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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECT

Volume 23-24 Issue 5

February 2024

Military Sexual Trauma A Family Problem

Military sexual trauma has far reaching affects. It has a significant affect on family of the survivor.

- Victims have a hard time opening up to family and sharing their experiences.
- Spouses struggle to know how to offer support.
- Children may not know how to express their worry about the parent.
- Victims may feel uneasy or on edge when engaging with family or in social gatherings.
- Spouses struggle with learning the triggers.

- Children may look to the other parent for caregiving making victim feel they are no longer needed.
- Victims may disconnect and withdraw including from family members.
- Spouses try to get unwanted help for the victim
- Children may misbehave because they don't understand the changes in the parent.
- Victims have trust issues and may not feel safe.
- Spouses try to understand why they are not trusted.

Family members need support as well as the MST victim.

VFW Auxiliary Dept of Florida MST Week

As Military Sexual Trauma Awareness month is April which is after our reporting year is over, the week of February 11-17 will be the VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida Military Sexual Trauma week. Each Auxiliary should be planning a fundraiser/awareness event. Events can be such as:

- Special Dinner
- Yard Sales/Flea Markets
- Motorcycle Runs or 5k walk/run
- Sock hops
- Car washes

Use these events as an awareness program.



Donation Parade
Bring your donations for
Special Project to Mid-
Winter Conference.

Wooden Flag Raffle

For Dept President's Special Project

\$5 each or \$10 for 3

300 Tickets Available

(Tickets Available at Mid-Winter Conference)

Drawing at June Convention

Approved By:
Teresa Bachand
Department President

Jodi Nerney
Dept. President's Special Project Chairman
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