

SUNSHINE

E-NEWS LETTER

JULY 2024 - ISSUE NO 1

FROM TEAM FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME:

UNITY

One Family One Voice One Team

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS SPECIAL PROJECT:

Freedom Ride

An equine assisted therapeutic program for U.S. Veterans offers the opportunity to interact with horses in a way that allows for increasing self-awareness, enhancing coping skills and learning more effective ways to interact and move forward within the community and with friends and loved ones. The program not only utilizes the horse as a "safe" entity but the program takes place outside of the usual therapy office and rather in a calm, peaceful yet social environment. Over time, the individual's confidence and ability to trust increases, but the benefits of this equine therapeutic program go further.

For more information go to:

www.freedomride.com/veteransequineassisted/



NATIONAL PRESIDENT BRENDA BRYANT'S 24-25 SPECIAL PROJECT: OPERATION BOTTOM COVER

There is a need for diapers for the babies of our military and veterans. Operation Bottom Cover is partnering with Operation Showers of Appreciation to distribute diapers all over the world to active -duty military and veteran families.

How can your Auxiliary help?

- Gift money to Operation Bottom Cover through MALTA under gifts – National President's Special Project or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked NP Special Project.
- Coordinate with and make a gift of diapers directly to a military base. If you don't have a contact at the base, reach out to your VFW VMS Chairman, maybe they can help.
- Host a diaper give away for veteran or military families at your Post.

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TERESA BACHAND 2023-2024 - A GREAT YEAR!



Incoming President Virginia Brehmer 2024-2025 - A Great year Ahead!





VFW NATIONAL HOME 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

2025 A YEAR TO REMEMBER

100th Anniversary Events

January 7, 2025

**Original Birthday Party Celebration
VFW National Home**

February 8, 2025

**Black Tie Event
VFW National Home**

March 9, 2025

**Pollet House Dedication / Ribbon Cutting
VFW National Home**

June 28, 2025

**100th Birthday Party
VFW National Home**

August 9-14, 2025

**VFW National Convention
Columbus Ohio**

Monthly Program Focus: AMERICANISM

Americanism, also referred to as an American patriotism, is a set of nationalist values which aim to create a collective American identity for the United States that can be defined as "an articulation of the nation's rightful place in the world, a set of traditions, a political language, and a cultural style.

We all work so hard throughout the year serving our Veterans. Because of what we do in conjunction with our Post's many Veterans we serve.

So, what is our purpose – bringing together One Family! Being One Voice and as always One Team! We need to promote Patriotism by celebrating holidays, not just celebrating the upcoming 4th of July but also inviting a Veteran and their family to your home to enjoy your family's celebration.

Get involved within your community, Help out at Veteran Food Bank or the VA Hospital.

So, what does Americanism and Patriotism mean to you? Patriotism is something portrayed - such as teaching our children flag etiquette in schools. Noticing a tethered Flag within your community and have that Flag replaced. Recognize business and residences in your community for their Flag display with a Certificate found on the Dept. Website.

Promote a flag exchange with cards found on the Dept. website under Americanism resources. Leave the card where you see a tattered flag and let them call you to have it properly disposed of. If possible, supply them with a replacement flag.

There is so much more I want to share, but I will close for now with wishes for a fun, safe 4th of July holiday for all. I hope to see you in our upcoming trainings in August, and please, please REPORT and let me know how your celebrations went!

Carol Franker

Americanism Chairperson

Qcarol4u@gmail.com



Flag/Tag event in the Orlando Lake Nona area.

VAVS sponsored a flag/ tag event at Lake Nona Hospital and 4 clinics the weeks prior to Memorial Day. Veterans and their companions were invited to write the names of those Veterans gone before us on a tag. Our Auxiliary volunteers tied the tags to flags and placed them in the ground all around the large flag outside the VA facilities. 2,500 flags with tags created remembrance gardens that show "No One is Forgotten".



RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE NEW DAYTONA BEACH VA CLINIC.



The Department of Florida Auxiliary donated a plaque for the "Honor Garden" located the front of the clinic.



Our very own Karen Heikkila, won the GI Joe award, the highest award for our Auxiliary from the Dept of Florida VFW . Congratulations Karen!



Department-level First-Place Winning Entries of the 2023-2024 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest!

Title of work: Many Generations to Come

Artist: Angelica Smith

Department: Florida

Sponsoring Auxiliary: Auxiliary 10087

Know your Department Chairmen:

- Americanism – Carol Franker Qcarol4u@gmail.com
- Auxiliary Outreach – Sandi Hendriks sandihendriks@yahoo.com
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- Legislative – Melissa McKeon Melissamckeon@gmail.com
- Scholarships – Ann Batson annbatson@att.net
- Dept. President's Special Project – Pauline Riddle ProjectFireballs44@hotmail.com
- Veterans & Family Support – Bob Kabala rkabala@tampabay.rr.com
- Youth Program – Amy DiMauro stavamy@aol.com

Keep up to date with the monthly promotions from your chairmen!



Patriotic Rally 23-24



Send your Pictures and Story's for the Sunshine E-Newsletter to: Roger Ingall Shanily.04@gmail.com