## **Department Presidents Special Project**

Veterans Village is the 2025-2026 Presidents Special Project. Our Department President looks forward to working along side State Commander Scott Hice. We as one will build a bridge between the VFW Auxiliary and Veterans Village.

This year's project will be to help raise awareness about the village, contribute volunteer hours, make repairs and improvements throughout the village with financial donations, and to improve the lives of the residents.

Veterans Village has been open since October 31, 1991. They are a 501(c)19, non-profit that is owned and operated by the Department of Florida Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Veterans Village is an independent living facility designed for active veterans, their spouses, widows, auxiliary members, and honorably discharged veterans. Donations and fundraising make up 25% of the operating cost.

Veterans Village gives residents the opportunity to make new friends and have companionship they would not have if they lived alone or with their spouse. The village has a community dining room where meals are served three times a day. Residents have access to a Library, wireless internet, and many acres to walk. Outside there are two covered areas to grill or just sit and have conversations with each other.

Why do we all need to work on this project? Great question! Our moto as the VFW Auxiliary is *"unwavering support for uncommon heroes."* 

We work together on this project because there are areas in need of upgrades and we have the ability to assist our residents with their needs and hopefully some of their wants too. These residents are our brothers in sisters and deserve our love and respect. They are uncommon *heroes!* 

## **Department Awards**

The Bridge of Lions \$100.00-\$499.00. Dames Point Bridge \$500.00-\$999.00. Seven Mill Bridge \$1000.00-\$1599.00. The Sunshine Skyway Bridge\$1600.00. The deadline for all donations is to get recognized, June Convention will be April 15, 2026.

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