



Veterans & Family Support Program

Building Bridges for our Veterans

AS THE YEAR COMES TO AN END...

As the 2025–26 term comes to a close, we want to reflect on the incredible work accomplished through our Veterans & Family Support Program. Our Auxiliaries across Florida have made a real difference for our Veterans, our service members, and their families—and that impact is felt far beyond our communities.

This year, we focused on supporting **VFW National Veterans Service**, helping our Veterans understand and access the benefits they earned. Our Auxiliaries also strongly supported **VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs**, stepping up to assist service members and their families during times of need through outreach, partnerships, and hands-on support.

We also remained committed to **veteran and military suicide prevention and mental health awareness**, sharing resources, encouraging conversations, promoting the **988, option 1 Veterans Crisis Line**, and reminding our Veterans they are never alone.

While this term may be ending, our mission continues. We are proud of what we accomplish together. Department President Mike Yates' vision of *"Building Bridges for our Veterans,"* remains a guiding value as we continue National President Lois Callahan's theme, *"From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans who Keep Us Free."*

Tools to continue this important work can always be found on **MALTA under Member Resources**, on **VFW.org under Assistance**, or from the **VA.gov** website.

Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates



SHOW OUR LOVE FOR OUR VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

This Valentine's Day, invite kids to join us in making cards for Veterans and active-duty service members. It's a wonderful way to teach children to honor and respect those who serve, while creating memories that last. These experiences also help connect younger generations to the VFW and Auxiliary, inspiring future involvement and keeping our mission strong.



Ryan M. Harris
Program Chair
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VFW Auxiliary
Department of Florida



February 2026

REPORT TODAY FOR THE RECOGNITION YOU DESERVE!

The Florida VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Program continues to thrive because of the outstanding work being done by Auxiliaries across our Department. From supporting veterans and military families to strengthening our communities, every activity matters—and every activity deserves to be documented and recognized.

I want to remind all Auxiliaries to submit their program activity reports through the Department website at vfwauxfl.org. Department awards are judged based on these reports, along with any supplemental materials emailed to me as Program Chair. What we've received so far as been great, so let's make sure we don't miss anything!

For Auxiliaries seeking **National Program Award** consideration, please remember that submitting a Department report alone is *not* sufficient. National awards **require** the official National Program Award entry form. These forms are available on **MALTA** under **Member Resources / Veterans & Family Support / Award Forms**.

Completed National Award forms must be emailed to me at Ryan.Harris.CISA@gmail.com with the subject line:

"VFS National Award Form – Auxiliary #####"

All submissions must be received by March 31. I strongly encourage Auxiliaries to include photos, flyers, newsletters, and additional descriptions to help their activities stand out.

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve the Department during the 2025–26 term as Veterans & Family Support Chair. I am continually amazed by the dedication of our membership, and I am incredibly proud to be part of an organization that does such meaningful work for Veterans and their Families.

Thank you for all that you do!

Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates

Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1

**VETERANS CRISIS
LINE: HELP IS
ALWAYS
AVAILABLE**

Every day, Veterans and service members face challenges that can feel overwhelming. The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7 for support, guidance, and a listening ear. If you or someone you know is struggling, call **988 and press 1**, text **838255**, or chat online. Remember, every Veteran matters, and no one has to face a crisis alone.

**One life lost is
one too many.**

Ryan M. Harris
Program Chair
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