

JUNE 2025

# AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Department President's Theme

*"Building Bridges for our Veterans"*

National President's Theme

*"From Sea to shining Sea our Veterans Keep us Free"*

## Program Goals

- Flag Education
- Promote Patriotism
- POW/MIA Recognition
- Star Family Recognition

## Welcome Auxiliaries to 2025-2026

As we begin our new year: start your list going for Patriotic dates. Go to [Vfwauxiliary.org](http://Vfwauxiliary.org), log in to MALTA then go to Member Resources, under Americanism is your list.

Don't forget the lesser celebrated holidays they are just as important.



**We together can build our country strong Again!**

**We should love what we do and show it! REPORT it!**

In July we celebrate the 4th also known as Independence Day which marks the historic date of 1776 when the Continental Congress approved the written Declaration of Independence. This is day where we can display our Patriotism by flying the American Flag and dressing in the flags colors of



**RED** SYMBOLIZES VALOR AND BRAVERY

**WHITE** SIGNIFIES PURITY AND INNOCENCE

**BLUE** SIGNIFIES VIGILANCE, PERSISTENCE AND JUSTICE

**Lesser known Holidays to celebrate in July:**

**July 25th** National Hire a Veteran Day

**July 27th** is Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

*"Patriotism is the admission that the people who share a land, a place, and a history have a special obligation to that place and each other...."-DAVID EHRENFELD*

Approved by:  
Department President  
Mike Yates

Michelle Butler  
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# AUXILIARY OUTREACH

June 2025

**National Ambassador Sara Manke's theme:**  
**"As you shine your light, the world grows bright, you are a beacon of love."**

**Department President Mike Yates theme: "Building Bridges for our Veterans"**



**The purpose of Auxiliary Outreach is to partner with local groups to help them attain THEIR goals. It requires NO MONEY on the Auxiliary's part; only HOURS AND LABOR. By helping others in our community, we BUILD BRIDGES FOR OUR VETERANS and become a BEACON in the community. SHINE YOUR LIGHT!**

## **REQUIREMENTS:**



**Make sure you approve the partnership at an Auxiliary meeting and record it in the minutes.**

**Make sure you wear an Auxiliary shirt, hat, name tag, or anything that shows your connection to your Post.**

**Make sure to report it on Department Reporting page**



## **AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL:**



**DEPARTMENT AWARDS:** most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event that is shared on social media using #AuxiliaryOutreach in each membership class. Entry form is required and available on MALTA. Auxiliaries must send the required form to the Department Auxiliary Outreach Chair by March 31, 2026 for judging.



**NATIONAL AWARDS:** Most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event that is shared on social media using #Auxiliary Outreach. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that shares the most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event using #AuxiliaryOutreach during the current program year.

Approved by  
Mike Yates  
Dept. President

Becky Kieffer  
Auxiliary Outreach Chair  
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# VFW National Home

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The VFW National Home assists military, veterans and their families with children by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive safe & healthy environment.



## How can our Auxiliaries help?

*Vote to donate your Silver Drill to the VFW National Home*

*Purchase a Tribute Brick in your Auxiliary's name*

*Auxiliaries can become Life Members*

*Amazon Wish List*

*Home Front Hero*

*2025-2026 Whitmore's Warriors  
"Stock the Store"*

Celebrate the VFW National Home Centennial in style with a personalized engraved brick in their 2025 Centennial Garden. Whether it's to honor a loved one, commemorate a special event, or simply leave your mark on this historic occasion, the 8x8 engraved bricks offer a timeless way to do just that.

And for a limited time only, you can secure your place in history for an unbeatable price of only \$500.

Not only will your brick be a lasting tribute to your contribution to celebrate our 2025 centennial anniversary, but it will also add to the beauty and legacy of the garden for years to come.

You can shop and order Centennial keepsakes at [vfwnationalhome.org/shop](http://vfwnationalhome.org/shop)



Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home  
Dept. Chairman Jennifer Holland  
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Approved by:  
Department President  
Mike Yates

# Presidents Special Project

## Veterans Village

June 2025



It takes a team  
to build a bridge



So lets build  
that bridge!



## This years Presidents Special Project Department of Florida VFW Veterans Village

Veterans Village has been in Ft Mc Coy, FL since 1991. It is owned and operated by veterans for veterans in Florida. Who is eligible, Veterans, Spouses, Widows, Auxiliary members and Honorably discharged veterans. There have been many upgrades in recent years but they still needs more upgrades and are always in need of repairs like any home would need. Monetary donations help, but for those who can't give there are other ways to support The Veterans Village.



All Funds donated to this years Presidents Special Project will go to Veterans Village. Please write in the memo line Presidents Special Project, PSP or Veterans Village.



The 4th of July is coming! How about volunteering to hold a picnic for the residents at Veterans Village. Provide a meal and some fun, everyone likes corn hole.

**Sponsored by  
Auxiliary  
123456789  
Gods Country, FL**

**Adopt-A-Room** – You Donate \$500 and the money is placed in an account for that room when repairs need the money is readily available to make the repairs necessary. If you would like to replenish the fund you can. If your auxiliary chooses not to replenish the account, I opens up for another post or auxiliary to adopt.

**ADOPT A VET**

Did you know that you can go one step further than adopting a room? How about adopt a resident? You can put money into a special fund for that resident's personal or medical needs. Everyone loves to receive cards, letters, or care packages.

One special project that the residents want is a chicken coop and chickens. The current coop at Veterans Village is close to the wooded area and they are unable to keep wild animals from getting into it. They would like to have a new one closer to the building and more secure.



Memorial Bricks with a logo and 3 lines on it are \$75, you can download the application from the Veterans Village website.

Please Coordinate with Veterans Village on any event you would like to have.

Phone Number  
(352)-236-0823

<https://vfwveteransvillage.org>

Approved by:  
Department President  
Mike Yates

Kelly Barr  
Department Presidents Special Project  
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# EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION



## Revitalization

There are several valuable resources and tools available for members to assist with Revitalization.

You can locate these resources/tools by visiting MALTA or [vfwauxfl.org](http://vfwauxfl.org)

- 1) The Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit
- 2) Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation
- 3) "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" video
- 4) "Good Job" Certificates.
- 5) National Ambassador blogs

These resources are not limited to those Auxiliaries that need assistance with Revitalization, but can help to maintain a Healthy Auxiliary.

You may also reach out to the Membership Chairman for ideas on recruiting new members. Bringing on new members may help an Auxiliary "bridge the gap" to becoming healthy.

When Auxiliaries are healthy, we are able to put our focus on our Veterans.

We want to hear how you are staying healthy, so please make sure to report, report, report!

Approved by:  
Department President  
Mike Yates

JUNE 2025

●  
"BRIDGING THE GAP FOR OUR  
VETERANS"

National Ambassador QR Code



National President's Motto

*"Be the lighthouse in someone's storm"*

Department President's Motto

*"Bridging the Gap for Our Veterans"*



Sherri Golder

Ext/Rev Chairman

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# HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS

June

2025 – 2026

*Building Bridges for Our Veterans"*

*"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans  
who keep us Free"*

## The 5 W's

Capture activities, achievements, and the dedication of our Auxiliaries in action by using the 5 W's:



**Who:** Identify the individuals or groups.

**What:** The actions, events or the objects.

**When:** Timelines, milestones and events.

**Where:** The physical or virtual location of the event.

**Why:** The reasons, motivations or justifications of the event.



## MEDIA PLATFORMS

- FACEBOOK
- YOUTUBE
- INSTAGRAM
- PINTEREST
- REELS – Used to showcase small clips of videos or pictures to highlight important moments

## AMERICAS BIRTHDAY

• CELEBRATE OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY  
• HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA



Approved by:  
Department President  
Mike Yates



Kathy Ingall  
Historian/Media Chairman  
[shanily.05@gmail.com](mailto:shanily.05@gmail.com)

# HOSPITAL PROGRAM

JUNE 2025



***"Building Bridges for Our Veterans"***



***Honor and Celebrate our Veterans get creative!***

Before hosting an event with a facility, the VFW Auxiliary Chairman, should get permission from the facility. Be sure to ask what is and what is not permitted. All projects should be voted on by your Auxiliary at a regular meeting.

Have fun with the Veteran's.... play cards, have a paint party, pizza party, bingo ice cream party Maybe trivia. Use your imagination.



- ***Prepare simple Patriotic treats:** colorful fruit skewers, red, white & blue cupcakes w/ little American Flags*
- ***Tye Dying:** Shirts, socks*
- ***Thank A Veteran:** Write thank you cards & pass them out*
- ***Karaoke:** have them do sing a long Patriotic song's*
- ***Movie Day:** find out what movies they like to watch and arrange to show them*

***"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free"***



Approved by:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates

Viki Stripling Hospital Chairman  
Vikiplottsdistrict11@yahoo.com



## KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

The U.S. House of Representatives is a chamber of the bicameral U.S. Congress; it is the lower house, with the U.S. Senate being the upper house. Together, the House and Senate have the authority to pass or defeat federal legislation, known as bills.

The number of voting representatives in the House is 435, proportionally representing the population of 50 states.

The number of voting Senators is 100, 2 in each of the 50 states.

Florida has 28 Districts in the House of Representatives.

Each State has 2 Senators



Approved by:  
Department President  
Mike Yates

# LEGISLATIVE

June 2025

**Be an Advocate – Be Informed – Be Engaged**

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### FINDING YOUR LEGISLATORS

Go to the internet and type in the following address:

[www.usa.gov/elected-officials](http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials)

Once you find your representative and/or senator, write down the physical address of their district office in FL, the email address, telephone number of their district office and the Washington, D.C. office.

- Find out where they stand on Veteran issues.
- Write a letter as a constituent.
- Be passionate and professional
- Don't assume they know our issues they have so many.
- Make a friend of the staffers – often they decide what gets attention first.

## ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

**Life, Liberty and Justice  
for our Veterans**

The VFW Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for our nation's heroes.

This electronic newsletter is published every Monday to help keep members and patriotic supporters informed and updated on issues facing our veterans, military, and their families.

If you sign up for the ACTION ALERT, you will get an email that you can act on. Just click on the link in the email and fill in your information and it will go to your representatives or senators. It doesn't get easier than that, so join today and help your members do the same.

[www.vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](http://www.vfw.org/JoinActionCorps)

All these resources can be found in Malta → Member Resources → Legislative

Pamela Monroe  
Legislative Chairman  
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**JUNE 2025**

# Mentoring/ Membership

## VFW AUXILIARY DEPT. OF FLORIDA

**Check out M.A.L.T.A under membership resources for several tools to help with membership materials!**

### **Our Key Focus for the July: Invite!**

Our Auxiliary relies on our builders (members) to help us grow our organization! We are always looking for new members to help us build our bridge which helps bridge the gap for our Veterans.

A few methods to increase membership this summer include:

- *Guest Invitations: who can you include?*
- *Social Events - What events do you have organized to help introduce your Post to new members.*
- *Membership Sign-Up Contests: Create a contest this summer. - how many guests can each member invite to your Post!*

To prepare for these additional invitations, ensure membership applications are readily available at the events. Pre-Print the new membership QR codes and make them available at the event!

Be sure to encourage your current members to participate and explain the benefits of our amazing organization.



### **Monthly Membership Birthday Club!**

*Does your Auxiliary currently have a Birthday club? In honor of Our Nation's birthday, July is a great month to institute a birthday club that recognizes our members and their milestones!*

Create a committee and ask those that have time to send out birthday postcards to your members. This additional mailing may foster additional inclusion and investment to the organization!



#### **Approved by:**

Department President  
Mike Yates

**Holly Evans**  
**Memembrship/Mentoring**  
**Chairman**  
**hadams1221@hotmail.com**



# Scholarships

June 2025



## *"Building Bridges for Our Veterans"*

### Program Goals

- Student Participation
- Community Awareness
- Recipient Recognition
- Increasing the Fund

<https://vfwauxfl.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=133704>

National Auxiliary Scholarship



### Auxiliary Award:

Most creative and/or unique activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary. Look for the entry form on both the National and Department Websites. Entry form due to Department Chair by March 31, 2026.

## Start Now to PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE!

Reach out early to friends, family, schools, organizations, churches, sports clubs, etc. Face to Face contact is key to making an impression and building relationships that will increase your chances of a successful program and greater participation from students. Have a Facebook page or other social media venue (or create one) – Post it. Submit a Press Release to your local news, radio stations, online newspaper. Be creative, have fun.

## Continuing Education

This one is for you and your immediate family members (spouse, son, daughter) and must be at least age 21. Entry deadline is 15 February. This scholarship is a primary focus of the National President this year in promoting and increasing the fund. Think about how you can assist her in reaching this goal.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education/>

## Voice of Democracy (grades 9-12) Patriots Pen (grades 6-8)

Work with your VFW Post to promote this program.

The **Theme** is the same for both this year:

"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

### Deadlines:

Local VFW Post - 31 October 2025

District VFW Chairman – 15 November 2025

Department VFW Chairman – 15 December 2025

Approved by:  
Department President  
Mike Yates



Carrie Messer  
Scholarship Chairman  
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# Veterans & Family Support Program

## Building Bridges for our Veterans

### BECOMING THE BRIDGE

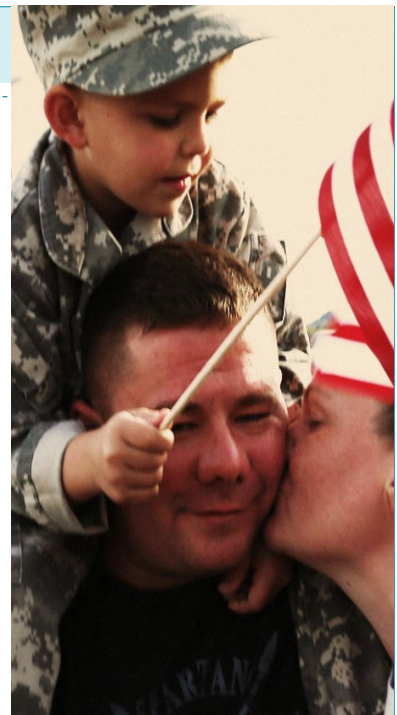
Veteran resources offer a vital lifeline, providing access to healthcare, mental health support, and disability benefits. They assist with navigating complex systems like the VA, securing housing, and finding meaningful employment through job training and placement programs. Furthermore, support networks and peer groups offer a renewed sense of community and understanding from those with shared experiences.

By linking Veterans with the tailored services, we acknowledge their sacrifices and empower them to overcome obstacles. Familiarize yourself with the resources provided in the Program guide and others so you can bridge the gap and support our Veterans and their families!

### SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT:

#### VFW MENTAL WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

The VFW Mental Wellness Campaign aims to combat the stigma surrounding mental health for veterans and the broader community. A key initiative involves educating the public on the "Five Signs of Emotional Suffering" to help identify those in need. The campaign encourages community engagement, supports research, and promotes intervention, ultimately striving to connect veterans with vital resources like the Veterans Crisis Line and foster a supportive environment for mental well-being. Learn more at <https://vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>



### PROGRAM PLANNING

#### Event Planning

Involve all of your members in the planning and execution stage!

#### Online Reporting

Remember to report all of your activities supporting Veterans & Family Support as soon as possible after the event!



Ryan Harris  
Program Chair

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# Auxiliary Youth Activities

June 2025

Issue 1

**“Be the Lighthouse in Somebody’s Storm”**

**“Bridging the Gap for Our Veterans”**



## **Program Goal 1:**

- Creating, Sponsoring, and Working with Youth Groups

### **Youth Groups:**

- Youth Sports Teams
- Faith-Based Youth Groups
- After-School Programs
- Youth-Focused Organizations
- School Clubs
- Home-School Associations
- Youth Community Service Groups
- Nonprofit Organization Youth Advisory Councils
- Service Learning & Civic Departments at Jr. High & High Schools

### **Ways to Get Involved:**

- Contact local sports league commissioners to sponsor
- Contact local churches and other faith groups
- Contact Boys & Girls Clubs
- Contact local 4-H Clubs, YMCAs
- Contact local Jr. High & High Schools’ Principles/Guidance Counselors
- Invite youth groups, schools, and other organizations with children to VFW/Aux/Patriotic Events

Approved By:  
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