

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dept. Commander & President
Joint Homecoming

March 13 - 14, 2026

Florida Hotel - Room rates \$139

1500 Sand Lake Rd.

Orlando, Fl.

Phone: 800-588-4656

(Must mention VFW Homecoming)

Hotel Reservations Cut-off

February 16, 2026

Reservations for Banquet on March 14, 2026

Must be sent to Debbie Tilley

904-460-9345 or cell 904-495-3622

dktilley@comcast.net

cut-off February 27, 2026





Department President
VFW Auxiliary SHIRT ORDER FORM
2026-2027

\$35 PER SHIRT Small – 2X
\$40 PER SHIRT 3X – 4X (4X is Mens Only)

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

District _____

Post/Auxiliary _____

Size:

_____ **Men's**

_____ **Women**

OPTIONAL

*****Add \$5.00 for 3 lines of embroidery*****

Personalization

(Please print clearly)

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Paid Check# _____ **Cash** _____

Checks Payable to:

Kathy Wright

5867 111st St.
Jacksonville, Fl. 32244

Earmark for "SHIRTS"

Americanism & Patriotic Instructor

November 2025



Program Goals

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

Did you know?

Veterans Day is November 11 originally called Armistice Day in 1926!

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming it Veterans Day.

Did you know?

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis designated that November is now VETERANS APPRECIATION Month effective 7/01/2024!

Remember

**Happy Birthday Marine Corp November 10,1775
Happy Thanksgiving November 27th**



**Don't forget to Vote
Join and participate in Parades,
Hand out RAP Cards,
Remember to
Participating in Action Corp, Get Involved
Make a Difference**



Upcoming Holidays

**12/7- Pearl Harbor Day
12/15- Bill of Rights Day
12/22 – Forefathers Day**

Your auxiliary can win an award when you share by writing a report showing the details through your words, tell the story!

Did you have an event?

How are you educating your Auxiliary, Youth and Community?

**We need to be Proud and show our colors and share with
#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM**



Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates

Michelle Butler
Americanism/Patriotic Instructor
americanism.patrioticinstructor.2526@gmail.com



AUXILIARY OUTREACH

November 2025

HAPPY THANKSGIVING MONTH!!!

This season of giving is the perfect time to “give” the gift of TIME to a Community group to BUILD BRIDGES FOR VETERANS and

SHINE YOUR LIGHT OF LOVE.

November Dates to give you ideas on where to Volunteer your time!

Nov. 4th Election Day Polling places may include churches, schools and such that need help with setup, directing voters into the polling place, cleanup, lunches, etc.

Nov. 11th Veterans Day Help your local government with their parades, celebrations, and / or flag placements.

Nov 27th Thanksgiving Churches, Feeding the Homeless groups always look for volunteers during this busy time.

BUILD BRIDGES FOR VETERANS !!

BE THE LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE AND LOVE !!

FOR DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

Most Outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and / or event that is shared on social media using #AUXILIARYOUTREACH in each membership class.

Entry forms (on Malta) must be submitted to me by March 31, 2026.

FOR NATIONAL AWARDS:

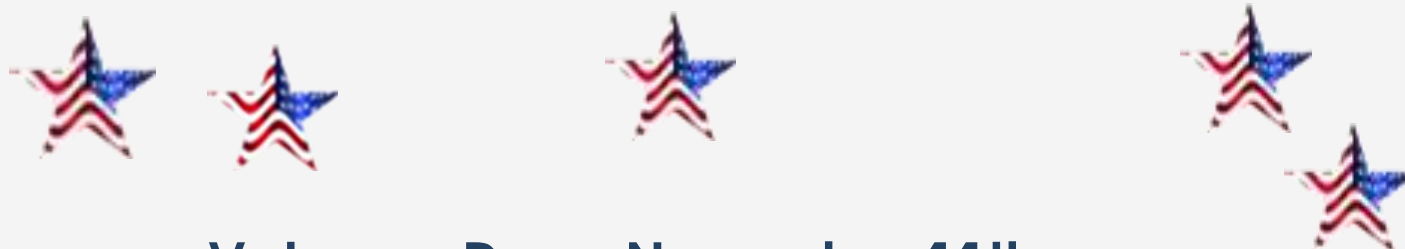
Most Outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and / or event that is shared on social media using #AUXILIARYOUTREACH. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 program divisions.

Entry forms (on Malta) must be submitted to me by March 31, 2026.

**Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates**

**Becky Kieffer
Auxiliary Outreach Chair
Bkiso2012 @ gmail.com**





Veterans Day – November 11th Celebrate, Educate, and Remember

- Host a “Poppy Table of Honor” at your community’s Veterans Day ceremony or parade. Display poppies, photos of local veterans, and information about what the Buddy Poppy represents.
- Poppy Gratitude Cards: Have members or students write thank-you notes to veterans and attach a Buddy Poppy to each card.
- Wear a Poppy for a Purpose: Encourage everyone to wear a poppy during the ceremony or all week leading up to Veterans Day.
- Moment of Reflection: During your Veterans Day ceremony, include a short statement recognizing the National Home and the families it helps.
- Families of Service” Display: Highlight photos or stories of military families in your community to connect the National Home’s mission to local faces.

Thanksgiving – A Season of Family & Gratitude



“Poppies of Thanks” Centerpieces: Create table decorations using poppies, mini flags, and “thank you” messages to display at Auxiliary dinners or community Thanksgiving meals.

Buddy Poppy Tree of Thanks: Decorate a small tree or branch display with poppies and tags where people can write what they’re thankful for—especially in honor of those who served.

Poppy Pie Raffle or Bake Sale: Sell baked goods with Buddy Poppies tied to packaging and proceeds benefiting the VFW National Home or Veterans Relief Fund.

Host a Friendsgiving Fundraiser: Organize a dinner where attendees give thanks and make small donations to the National Home.

Letters of Thanks: Have members or children write cards of gratitude to the staff and families at the National Home.

♥ Remember:

Every Buddy Poppy supports veterans in need, their families, and the VFW National Home.

Let’s share the spirit of gratitude and remembrance throughout this season.



♥ Remember:

The VFW National Home provides stability, support, and hope to the families of our nation’s veterans and service members. Let’s share the warmth of “thankful” by giving back to those who give so much.

Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates

Dept. Chairman Jennifer Holland
jenniferLholland72@comcast.net





Extension and Revitalization

November 2025

A VFW Auxiliary is important because it serves as a crucial **"force multiplier"** for the VFW, strengthening its ability to support and advocate for veterans and their families.

Some reasons for the importance include:

Direct Support to Veterans & Families: Auxiliary members provide direct aid through volunteer hours in VA medical centers, hospitals, and nursing homes. They also assist with essential programs that provides financial grants to service members in crisis, and raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention.

Legislative Advocacy: The Auxiliary is a powerful voice on Capitol Hill, instrumental in assisting the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans' rights and benefits. Members make thousands of contacts with legislators each year to ensure veterans receive their earned entitlements.

Community Engagement and Patriotism: Auxiliaries boost the VFW's visibility by being involved in local events and programs that promote patriotism and Americanism. They

conduct patriotic programs with students, distribute flags, and promote national anthem singing and art contests.

Youth Education: They provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for the nation's youth through programs like the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests, fostering a sense of patriotism in younger generations.

Post-Level Assistance: At the local level, the Auxiliary offers valuable assistance with event preparation, helps with "Buddy" Poppy drives, and provides a social network and volunteer opportunities for veterans' family members, which helps in recruiting and retaining VFW members.

Shared Mission: Both the VFW and its Auxiliary share a common mission, vision, and goal, working together to ensure veterans and their families are never forgotten. The Auxiliary offers an avenue for relatives of overseas combat veterans to honor their family member's service and continue a legacy of service.

It is important that we consistently communicate with our Unaffiliated Posts to share the reasons why it is important to have an Auxiliary. To institute a new VFW Auxiliary, a sponsoring VFW Post must first approve the formation of an Auxiliary by a 2/3 majority vote. Once this has been done, please reach out to Department Chief of Staff or myself.

Do you know of a Post that would like to have an Auxiliary?
Make sure to let Department Chief of Staff or myself know.

If you have any questions, you may also reach out to Department Chief of Staff or myself.



Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates

Sherri Golder
Ext/Rev Chairperson
sherrigolder@gmail.com

Historian / Media Relations

NOVEMBER 2025

PROGRAM GOALS



Record Auxiliary History
Master the Art of Social Media
Promote What We Do

"Building Bridges for Our Veterans"

Educate yourself:

- How to position your camera /phone correctly
- When to use a flash or not
- Editing photos
- Adjusting your camera/phone setting

Capturing the best picture:

- How will you use the photo
- Take more than you need
- Photos should be clear and sharp



Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates

"From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free"

Tips for taken Photographs:

- Be aware of surroundings and background - frame your picture
- Make sure eyes are open
- Avoid offensive language on clothing
- Avoid photographing when people are eating
- Try different angles
- Ask permission/signed consent forms



KATHY INGALL.
Historian Media Chairman
vfwauxflhistorian25.26@gmail.com



HOSPITAL

NOVEMBER 2025

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FLORIDA



- **November 11th** – Such a special day for our Veteran's, hopefully you have plans to spoil them. Get your Auxiliaries to sign Thank You Cards, present them little snack bags, little Flags let them know how much they are loved & appreciated.
- **November 27th THANKSGIVING DAY-** Check with your VA Hospital, VA clinics, Homeless Veteran Shelters, Domiciliary see what they need help with... prepping food, serving, clean-up Volunteers can help in so many ways.

Wow Almost December !!!...



the time for Raffle's, 50/50, bake sale's etc.. To raise money for your Veteran's gifts for CHRISTMAS. Here are some suggestions:
Socks, slippers, sweat pants, robes etc..

December 7th – Pearl Harbor Day

December 25th – Christmas day

December 31st – New Year's Eve

What are your upcoming plans!!!!

Department President's Theme:
"Building Bridges for Our Veterans"

National President's Motto
"Be The Lighthouse in Somebody's Storm"



Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates



Viki Stripling Hospital Chairman
Vikiplottsdistrict11@yahoo.com



LEGISLATIVE

NOVEMBER

Be an Advocate
Be Informed
Be Engaged

November is a significant month for both Legislators and Veterans in the United States, marked by observances, events, and policy initiatives that aim to honor service members and address veterans' issues. This month brings together government representatives and veterans for commemorations, legislative actions, and public engagements.

These events provide opportunities for veterans to voice their concerns directly to elected officials and advocate. Community leaders and lawmakers use these interactions to gain insight into pressing issues and to demonstrate their support for veterans' causes.

Don't miss an opportunity to make a difference!

VFW PRIORITY GOALS

- Budget
- Health Care
- Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
- Military Readiness
- National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA



Pamela Monroe
Legislative Chairman
Anamcarax2@gmail.



Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates



MEMBERSHIP/MENTORING

Focus – Invest (Reinstate/Retain)

November 2025

How can your Auxiliary Invest in your membership?
Great question... just a few suggestions.

1. Recognize your Auxiliary members who volunteer. Give them a complimentary dinner coupon to one of your Auxiliary dinners or events. Print Good Job Awards off M.A.L.T.A. and present at a meeting. Send out personal thank you cards.
2. Recognize your Officers – Are any of your officers' annual members? Maybe offer to have your Auxiliary convert them to life. Take your officers out for a nice lunch or dinner as a thank you.
3. Review your old annual members who let their membership lapse, can you attempt to reinstate? Offer to pay for their first year so they can see what your Auxiliary has to offer.
4. Organize an event to say thank you to all your Auxiliary Volunteers, holidays are coming our way and several opportunities available to plan a nice lunch, happy hour or dinner.



As we continue showcasing our National and Department Presidents themes, we want to focus on our members and how they can use bridges and lighthouses as metaphors to strengthen our organization!

Are you using M.A.L.T.A.'s membership resources to help grow your membership?

"Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation is a great reference tool.

Podium Books can be pre-ordered on the VFW Store and each officer should receive a new copy along with new members.

Officers- If annual member, all dues must be paid by 12/31/25. You will be removed if not paid.

Are your Auxiliary's annual contributions paid? We appreciate staying ahead of these and paying early.

Membership Goal

98% by December 31st



Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates



Holly Evans
Membership/Mentoring Chair
Hadams1221@hotmail.com



November



Presidents Special Project

Thank you VFW Auxiliary

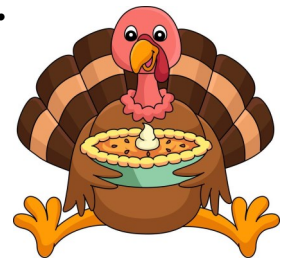
It was fun to watch the parade of checks. I am so excited that we are getting close to our goal. Keep that money coming in for Veterans Village. It would be wonderful to raise the money to pay the VFW back for the new floors and extra for them to do other needed items around the Village. Thank you for your hard work.

Veterans Village



November is the month of remembrance and of thanks. With remembrance of those who fought for our country is on November 11th. This is a wonderful time to remember our veterans at Veterans Village by sending cards and letters to the veterans there at the village. Send them 13005 NE 135th St, FT McCoy FL, 32134. Please remember to REPORT under Veterans and Family Service any activates you do for Veterans Village or Americanism.

Thanksgiving, November 27, 2025, please remember to be thankful for our veterans who put their lives on the line for us to have the freedoms that we have today. Are you thinking of helping the veterans at the village to a thanksgiving dinner? If you do let me know I would love to come myself. Make sure to coordinate this with Veterans Village. Call them at 352-236-0823.



Report, Report, Report

Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates

Kelly Barr
Dept Presidents Special Project Chairman
Flpresproject2526@gmail.com





SCHOLARSHIP

November 2025

CONTINUING EDUCATION

BUILD THE FUND

This one is for US

(and your spouse and children age 21 and older)

Treasurer's How To Make a Gift:
In MALTA under duties, select
"Make a Gift" then "National
President's 2025-2026 Project "

Deadline: 15 February

Email to National Headquarters at info@vfwauxiliary.org

Or Mail to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street 10th floor, Kansas City, MO 64111

Atten: Program Awards Administrator

Remember to Report about your fund raising event and donation for increasing the fund.

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

YOUNG AMERICAN PATRIOTIC ART AND 3-D ART

U.S. Flag: commonly used in artwork. When promoting to the schools and other organizations, provide a copy of the Federal Flag Code and encourage close attention to the U.S. Flag.

Common Mistakes: Not enough stars and stripes, appearance of someone standing on the flag, or something written or lying on it.

Tip: Best practice is to show the flag waiving freely.

RECOGNIZE, REPORT!

- Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen are in and judging almost completed – REMEMBER to **RECOGNIZE** the students. Top 3 and all participants – encourage participation next year.
- **REPORT** how you recognize the students – remember details matter (who, what, why, when, where).

Program Goals

Student Participation
Community Awareness
Recipient Recognition
Increasing the Fund

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 Website under MALTA, Member Resources, Scholarships. Entry form due to Department Chair by 31 March 2026.

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

National VFW Auxiliary Scholarship



Building Bridges for Our Veterans



Be the Lighthouse in Someone's Storm

Approved by:
Department President
Mike Yates



Carrie Messer
Scholarship Chair
messerca@gmail.com



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Building Bridges for our Veterans

MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH

November is Military Family Appreciation Month — a time to honor the strength, sacrifice, and resilience of the families who stand behind our service members and veterans. The VFW Auxiliary proudly joins the nation in recognizing these unsung heroes whose love and support are essential to our military's success.

Behind every soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, and Coast Guardsman is a family that endures long separations, relocations, and uncertainty with courage and grace. The VFW and the VFW Auxiliary understand these challenges and work year-round to provide programs, resources, and community support that make a difference. From organizing care packages and family events to offering scholarships and connecting military spouses with local services, the Auxiliary ensures military families feel appreciated and supported.

This November, the VFW Auxiliary encourages everyone to express gratitude to military families in their communities. A simple act of kindness or a heartfelt **"thank you"** can mean the world to those who give so much. As we head into the holiday season, let us remember that freedom is not only protected by those in uniform, but also sustained by the families who serve beside them in spirit. Together, we honor their service, sacrifice, and unwavering love.



Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates



VFW SERVICE OFFICERS

Veterans in our community come from all walks of life, but all deserve their well earned benefits. Knowing who your local service officers are and how to put a Veteran in contact with them is key to building the bridge to support our Veterans!



Ryan M. Harris
Program Chair
Ryan.Harris.CISA@gmail.com



LATEST NEWS

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND VETERANS SUPPORT

Due to the magnitude of the government shutdown, **the VFW Unmet Needs program is unable to temporarily provide assistance due to non-payment of salary** as it is not a military pay error. Once the government is reopened, the VFW looks forward to once again serving Veterans in need.

Some banks and credit unions are offering low or no interest short term loans for Active Military and their families. If you know someone in need, please have them check with their local banker until financial support is once again available.

SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT: VFW FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

The VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members program is a resource dedicated to helping active-duty military personnel and their families during times of unexpected financial hardship. Through the **VFW's Unmet Needs** program, eligible service members, veterans, and their immediate families can receive financial grants—not loans— of up to \$2500 to cover essential expenses such as rent, mortgage payments, utilities, vehicle repairs, and basic living costs.

Since its creation, this program has provided millions of dollars in direct aid to military families facing difficult situations brought on by deployment, injury, or unforeseen emergencies. Each grant is paid directly to the creditor to ensure immediate and effective relief, easing the stress on families who already bear the burden of service to our nation.

Eligibility and application information is online at www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants or by calling 866-789-6333

VETERANS DAY AND VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH

Veterans Day on November 11th honors the brave men and women who have served our nation with courage and dedication. As we express our gratitude, it's vital to remember that some veterans continue to face invisible battles. The Veterans Crisis Line—**dial 988 and press 1**—offers confidential, 24/7 support for veterans and their loved ones. This Veterans Day, let's thank those who served and ensure every veteran knows help and hope are always within reach.

Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates



Ryan M. Harris
Program Chair
Ryan.Harris.CISA@gmail.com

Youth Activities

“Be the Lighthouse in Somebody’s Storm”

“Bridging the Gap for our Veterans”



November 2025

Program goal 6:

Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

What better way to get involved with the youth in our communities than sponsoring and working with youth groups? Take advantage of the service aspects that some youth groups require. Many youth programs, especially for college-bound seniors, earn school credit for some of these activities. Involving youth in service to veterans in conjunction with your Auxiliary can bring new members to your Auxiliary!

Give our youth an example of how to Be the Lighthouse in Somebody’s Storm!

Youth Sports Events	Youth-focused organizations	Youth community service groups
Faith-Based Youth group	School clubs	Home-school associations
After-school programs	Nonprofit organization youth advisory councils	Service learning and civic departments in high schools and colleges
Boy Scout troops	Girl Scout troops	ROTC groups



Scan the Blue QR Code to submit stories & photos of your Auxiliary

Send in your event to our Sunshine E-Newsletter.

Lanaie Reed

Auxiliary Youth Chair
Dept of FL 2025-2026
lanwileth@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving



Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates

