



## ***ROBERT A. "BOB" KABALA***

### **DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA AUXILIARY**

### **CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT GUARD 2025-2026**

**ELIGIBILITY AND AUXILIARY POSITIONS SERVED:** I joined the VFW Auxiliary in 2016 under the eligibility of my father, who served in WW II. He served in the Pacific Theater of Operations and earned a Purple Heart, Silver Star, and six Bronze Stars. After joining, I quickly absorbed the rich tradition of the VFW Auxiliary and embraced the structured format of meetings. I served as my Post 6827 Auxiliary Secretary, and served as various Post Program Chairmanships for several years. In 2019, I was elected as Post 6827 Auxiliary President and served two years, earning the Department of Florida Circle of Champions. I transferred Auxiliaries in 2022 and served as the Auxiliary 4364 President in my new Post Auxiliary and earned Florida Circle of Champions in 2024. I also became very active in our Auxiliary District. I was elected as Florida District 9 Chaplain in 2018, and worked my way up every chair until being elected District Auxiliary President in 2020. I served two years as District President, earning Department of Florida District Circle of Champions in 2022. I also excelled in my Department appointments as Flag Bearer in 2020, Assistant Credentials Chairman in 2021, Chairman of the President's Special Project in 2022, Banner Bearer in 2023, Credentials Chairman in 2024, and currently the Chairman for the Veterans and Family Support Program.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND:** I feel that I am fully qualified for the Department Guard Position, having served 20 years in the military and 16 years in Department of Defense Civil Service. In 1978, I received my Commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (2LT) in the U.S. Army through the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). I was selected for the Combat Arms branch of Army Air Defense Artillery, serving in the Nike Hercules, Improved HAWK, and Patriot Surface to Air Missile Systems over my career. I have served in positions as Battalion Tactical Air Controller, Platoon Leader, Battery Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, Information Technology Instructor, Advanced Planning Officer, Logistical Program Manager, and Installation Garrison Commander. After retiring from military service, I accepted the position as Acquisition Program Manager for all of the Special Forces Night Vision and Laser Programs at the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL.

**EDUCATION:** My educational background includes earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science in 1978 from IUP before I entered military service. I served as an instructor at the U.S. Army Defense Information Technology University (1983). I continued my follow on studies earning a Master's Degree in Military and Government Administration (1991) while attending the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. I earned another Master's Degree in Acquisition Program Management (1997) at the Defense Acquisition University, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. I retired from Government Service in 2014, now focused on serving those veterans who served, through the VFW and VFW Auxiliary.

**FAMILY:** My wife Patricia (Patty) and I have been married since 2019 and have been enjoying a semi-retired life here in Florida ever since. She is very active in the VFW Auxiliary, serving in various positions in both our Auxiliary and our District. She continues to work at our local VFW Post. I have been blessed with two great children. My daughter Kathy (44) is a National Paralegal and Human Resource Specialist for a major Utility Company in Richmond, VA. She is also an Assistant Professor for Paralegal Studies at a Community College. My son Robert Jr. (40) is an Information Technology Senior Field Program Manager for a major software developer.

**OBJECTIVE AND GOALS:** I am very focused on providing guidance, leadership, and mentorship, while educating as many of my fellow Auxiliary members as I can. I look forward to every challenge that I face, while ensuring we are meeting and exceeding the expectations of our National and Department VFW Auxiliary Presidents. The VFW Auxiliary is rich in tradition and it is our responsibility to keep everyone educated and informed on the myriad of components available within all the Programs. It's time to do our part to give back to those who sacrificed and gave so much to defend our freedom, and I would be honored to spearhead this great organization.

**SUMMARY:** As a Veteran myself, I feel my experience, education, and leadership skills will be an important asset for the Department of Florida and the National VFW Auxiliary Organization. I stand ready in any way to support all of you, my Department President, our National President, the VFW Organization, and especially, our Veterans and their families!

Respectfully,

***Robert A. Kabala***

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P.S.— ***"IF YOU ARE NOT HAVING FUN, YOU ARE DOING IT WRONG!"***