Americanism

November 2026

Department President's Theme
"Growing Stronger for Our Veterans"

National President's Theme
"Serving America's Heroes"

Honoring the Greatest Generation
Preparing for December's Patriotic Remembrances

Americanism reflects unity, respect, and a shared commitment to the ideals that define our Nation. Through Americanism, we promote patriotism, educate our communities, honor our veterans and their families, and strengthen our communities through Flag Education, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action remembrance, Recognizing Star Families, and community involvement.

Americanism Event Ideas

 Host a Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony.
Participate in Wreaths Across America by placing wreaths at local veterans' cemeteries.
 Invite students or community groups to read the Bill of Rights.
 Organize a patriotic essay or poster display highlighting "Freedom Through Service."
 Recognize members of your local National Guard.

Winter weather often damages outdoor flags. Encourage businesses and homeowners to inspect their flags and replace worn or faded ones. Offer flag retirement ceremonies for damaged flags.

Flag Education

Auxiliary Americanism Challenge

Adopt a veterans' memorial, cemetery, or monument for holiday decorating and cleanup. Share your projects using **#AmericanismFL**, encouraging another Auxiliary to participate.

Remember to Report

Document your volunteer hours, educational activities, ceremonies, and community outreach in MALTA. Every project tells the story of your Auxiliary's commitment to Americanism.

Plan Ahead for December

Preparing for Four Chaplains Day, Presidents' Day, and American history education. December offers several meaningful opportunities to honor our Nation's history and those who served.



Nov 11: Veterans Day
Nov 13: World Kindness Day
Nov 15: National Cookie Day
Nov 26: Thanksgiving Day



Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright

Lanaie Reed
Americanism Chairman
Dept of Florida 2026-2027
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#AmericanismFL





Patriotic Instructor

November 2026

Department President's Theme
"Growing Stronger for Our Veterans"

National President's Theme
"Serving America's Heroes"

"A Month of Gratitude"

Veterans Day provides one of our greatest opportunities to educate our communities about patriotism and service.

Patriotic Instructor Spotlight

Teach proper Flag etiquette during Veterans Day ceremonies.
Discuss:

- Flag placement
- Processions
- National Anthem etiquette
- Civilian salute

Monthly Education Topic

Order of Precedence
From left to right when looking at the head table.

- American Flag placement
- Department / District or Auxiliary Flag
- POW/MIA Flag

Community

Volunteer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance during a Veterans Day ceremony.

Auxiliary Challenge

Visit one classroom to teach Flag etiquette or the meaning of Veterans Day.

Recognition

Honor veterans in your Auxiliary with a patriotic appreciation presentation.



"Gratitude is patriotism in action."

Patriotic Days

Nov 10 – U.S. Marine Corps Birthday
Nov 11 – Veterans Day
Nov 26 – Thanksgiving



Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright



Lanaie Reed Patriotic
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"Buddy" Poppy November 2026

Veterans Day

Prepare for your "Buddy" Poppy distirbution days. Work with the Post in getting locations. Remember: we do not sell the poppies - but we do accept donations.

At the post do a reading of
"In Flanders Field"
and make sure everyone is wearing a poppy

Poppy Gratitude Cards

Work with a local school and ask the students and/ or members to write thank-you notes to our Veterans and include a poppy with each card.

THANKSGIVING

Does your post host Veterans and their families for a Thanksgiving dinner? Make sure they know how thankful you are for their service and sacrifice. Create a corsage or boutonniere out of poppies for them to wear.
Use Poppies to decorate your tables and silverware.
Put poppies in gift baskets that you distribute to needy veterans

Christmas

Include a poppy in your Christmas cards & care packages to our troops
Now is the perfect time to remind us to give thanks and turn that gratitude Into KINDNESS and service.

Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright

Mary Conkle
"Buddy" Poppy Chairman
mmac2123@comcast.net

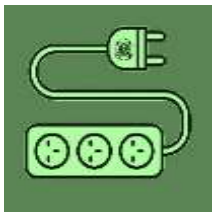












Extension: How do we start new Auxiliaries?

- ✓ **A Post should contact the Department about their wish to start an Auxiliary.**
- ✓ **Unaffiliated Posts must have a 2/3rds vote in a meeting to establish an auxiliary. A copy of the minutes are sent to the Dept. President, Chief of Staff & Secretary.**
- ✓ **They must have at least 15 new or rejoin applications, 7 of the applications can be from current members at large. The Department needs to review the applications.**
- ✓ **The Post then fills out an application and sends the application and a check for $100.00 to the Dept. Treasurer.**
- ✓ **The Dept. President assigns a coordinator to help the Post and new Auxiliary.**
- ✓ **Once the application comes back approved from National, we have 60 days to set a date and Institute the new Auxiliary.**

Remember- It's better to be nice rather than right!

Approved by:

Dept. of Florida President

Kathy Wright

Debbie McCollum, Chief of Staff

Ucfnole21@yahoo.com

Hospital Program

November 2026

***Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition**
VAVS Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)
***Women Veteran's Health Care *Honors Escort**

The holiday season is around us. What a great opportunity to reach out to a veteran patient facility and make plans to honor and celebrate our veterans.

1. **Recruitment and Recognition: Have Auxiliary members, family, friends, and youth groups make Veteran's Day and Christmas cards. Be sure to personalize the note, letting our veterans feel loved and appreciated. Thank the volunteers with a certificate of appreciation at your meeting.**
2. **Women Veterans Health and Wellbeing: Women Veteran needs are often overlooked. Gifts of toiletries, hair care products, blankets or shawls, even comfort items for the hospitalized. Make gift boxes for the veteran "moms to be", including a heartfelt card.**
3. **Honors Escort or Final Salute: The holiday season is especially hard on the veterans and their families when they lose a loved one. Register with a nursing home or Community Living Centers (CLC), letting them know what hours you are available. Recruit others to help escort the diseased veteran from the facility. If the facility needs you during your hours of availability, they will call you. Together, you can drape a flag over the veteran and walk with the family and staff to the exit. Please watch the instructional video on the VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida face book page.**
4. **VAVS (CDCE): Veteran Administration Volunteer Services, or Center for Development and Civic Engagement. Auxiliaries are welcomed to host Veteran's Day comfort tables at the hospitals, clinics, CLC, Domiciliary, and state-run veteran nursing homes. Holiday season is the perfect time to reach out to a facility and schedule a date to provide beverages, snacks and gratitude/love for our veterans. Hand out patriotic gifts and cards.**

The Holiday season is especially hard on veterans and their families with food insecurities. Make food baskets containing holiday dinner supplies, and a grocery gift card for perishables. Toiletry gift bags, blankets, socks and hats are great as well.



Be a "Neighborhood Companion" by simply visiting the veteran patients. A visit, card, or small gift or simply a kind word can make a huge difference to a veteran who may be away from family and friends.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Merry Christmas!

Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright



Karen Heikkila
Hospital Chairman
VAVS Representative
hospitalauxfl@yahoo.com

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services

Center for Development and Civic Engagement

November 2026

VAVS

Now known as Center for Development and Civic Engagement

The VFW Auxiliary volunteers and resources given to the VA facilities save the VA millions of dollars every year, and provides veteran patients the caring and compassion needed in their healing process.

Would you like to become a certified volunteer?

*There is an application process with security clearance, which would allow you to volunteer in areas such as the lab or data entry. You would be able to escort individual patients through their visit at the VA hospital, clinic, CLC, and Domiciliary. You would then be considered a "Regular" volunteer and participate on a regularly scheduled basis.

*Your status as a certified hospital volunteer qualifies you apply for the position of VAVS Representative or Deputy. Appointment of said positions are determined by the Department of Florida President, and they are tremendous honor.

* Also, there is recognition for certified volunteers through the VA. All your volunteer hours are included in the Auxiliary as well. Your VAVS Representative or Deputy can help you get started. Contact information for them and the Dept. of Fl. Hospital Chairman are on the vfwauxfl.org website.

Please know that if you are a regular or occasional hospital volunteer, your service to our veteran patients is appreciated!

Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright



Karen Heikkila
Hospital Chair/VAVS Rep
Hospital auxfl@yahoo.com

LEGISLATIVE – Florida November 2026

VFW Auxiliary Program Goals 2026/2027

Be an Advocate – Be Informed – Be Engaged

Reminders of VFW Program Goals 2026/2027

Legislative: Track bills impacting veterans, service members, and military families
Direct Advocacy: Respond to Action Corps alerts.
Member Education: Equip Auxiliary members with tools of communication with legislators by being: Clear, precise, courteous, know the talking points, tell your story, make the "ask" by formally requesting the legislator's support, take notes on their response and thank them.
Protecting Benefits: Ensure the sacred promise to our service members & veterans that their benefits will not be reduced by legislation.



Don't be a Turkey- get on board and learn about the legislative process

Some suggestions to make your gardening with grace efforts grow more

- Make phone calls to legislators
- Sign up everyone for Action Corps
  - Action Corps is the VFW's grassroot lobbying effort. This group works to inform and educate veterans and service members on the legislation and policies that affect them.
  - VFW.org/advocacy/national;-legislative-services
- Share information on specific bills that require action on.
- Attend town hall meetings and share information on veterans bills.
- Share the QR Code below for quick information.
- Print and share Legislative promotions with your members at meetings.



Florida Senators
Rick Scott Senior Senator
(202) 224-5274 www.rickscott.senate.gov
Ashley Moody Junior Senator
(202) 224-3041 www.moody.senate.gov



Approved by:
Department of Florida President
Kathy Wright



Department Legislative Chair
Betty A. Bailey, Chairman 26/27
Bann652@aol.com

Membership

Department of Florida
Kathy Wright President
Theme “Growing Stronger for our Veterans“



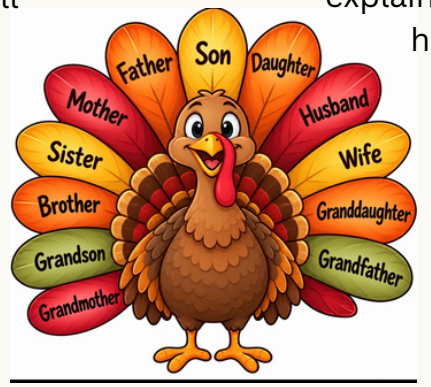
November 2026

National President
Donna Mills
“Serving our Heroes”

November is the month of gratitude! Let’s show our members how thankful we are for their dedication to our organization. There are several ways to say thank you and invest in our members…

1. Good job awards given out to those members that have made a difference in your Auxiliary these past few months at your November meetings. You can find several certificate options in M.A.L.T.A. under membership resources.

2. If you have any officers that are still annual members, bring a motion to the floor at your next meeting to purchase a Lifetime membership as a thank you. Or you can also vote to pay their annual dues, which are due by December 31st This is a great way to acknowledge our officers for their hard work.



3. Invite a member to one of your Auxiliary dinners that you haven’t seen in awhile and pay for their dinner. Engage in conversaton with them when they attend and ask if they would like re-engage with their Auxiliary. Find something they are interested in doing.

4. Prepare thank you cards to all your members who attend meetings and hand out at your next meeting.

As we move into our bustling holiday season, our Auxiliaries have numerous opportunities to reconnect with members, invite guests, and schedule membership drives during our events. Have the new membership brochures with our applications available and showcase all your hard work and explain our Department President’s theme “Growing Stronger for our Veterans”. We want to encourage new membership and explain we are looking for volunteers to help with our Veteran programs. We want more than just bar members. Ask your membership to commit to handing out just one application this year.

Many Auxiliary members ask… how can we help our family members prove eligibility. The family can request Veteran records online at archives.gov

95%

We want to reach our First Down National Award by reaching 95% in paid membership by November 30th



Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright



Holly Evans
Membership/Mentoring Chairman
hadams1221@hotmail.com

Mentoring with M.A.L.T.A.

November 2026

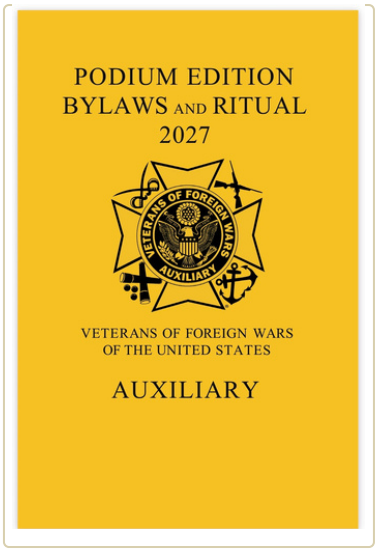
Department of Florida
Kathy Wright President
“Growing Stronger for our Veterans”



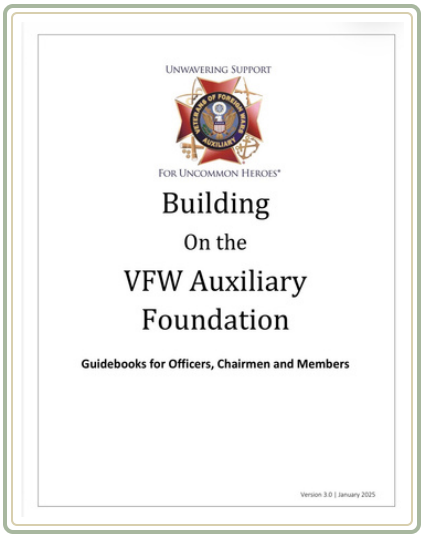
National President
Donna Mills
“Serving our Heroes”



2026-2027 National Presidents Program Guide



Updated 2027 Podium Book



Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation

All three of these membership mentoring tools can be found on M.A.L.T.A. under membership resources. These all have pertinent information for your Auxiliaries to help them strengthen their “gardens”. Kathy Wright’s theme “Growing Stronger for our Veterans” through Gardening with Grace & Goals can be acheived by encouraging your officers and members to download these tools and promote the Programs, follow the Podum rituals and teach/learn our officer positions.

Another great tool is our Auxiliary Membership QR Code that can be downloaded off M.A.L.T.A. This tool can be added to all your Auxiliary publications and shared with your membership at meetings, events and with potential members!

Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright



Holly Evans
Membership/Mentoring Chairman
2026-2027



VFW NATIONAL HOME
November 2026

VFW Auxiliaries Department of Florida

Every Auxiliary fundraiser gives us an opportunity to do more than raise money. It gives us an opportunity to give hope. By choosing to donate a portion of your fundraising proceeds to the VFW National Home, you will help support Veterans and their families during times when they need a helping hand. Every donation, whether large or small, becomes part of something greater. You help provide stability, encouragement, resources and a caring community for veterans and families. As a auxiliary member, giving is at the heart of our mission. Working together we can give the families at the VFW National Home continued hope so that they know they are not forgotten and never alone.

Where money is needed the most

General Fund

The **General Fund** offers the greatest flexibility to address urgent needs and adapt to the ever-changing challenges faced by the families we serve. Unrestricted gifts to this fund allow the VFW National Home to respond quickly - whether it's repairing essential infrastructure, supporting new programs, or addressing unforeseen challenges - ensuring we can continue to serve our military and veteran families where and when they need it most.

Family Support Services Fund

Gifts to the Family Support Services Fund help ensure the VFW National Home can continue offering a wide range of vital programs for our military and veteran families. This includes professional counseling, tutoring, parenting classes, employment support, and more. The fund is used to meet the diverse and evolving needs of each family, providing the critical services that help them heal, grow, and thrive.

Veteran Family Resource Center

The Veteran and Family Resource Center (VFRC) at the VFW National Home serves as a central hub of support, guidance, and empowerment for military and veteran families. Dedicated to improving the lives of those who have served, the VFRC connects families with vital resources, programs, and partnerships that foster stability, growth, and personal development. The VFRC supports specialized programs that provide unique avenues for skill-building and community engagement, including our music program for veterans and their families – Guitars 4 Vets, Heroes to Hives, and the RAVE (Regenerative Agriculture Veteran Education) program.

Donations should be clearly marked for where you want your donation to go



SANTA SHOP 2026

Gift suggestions - See next page

Deadline: December 4th

Gifts can be sent to:

Attn: Santa Shop

3573 S. Waverly Rd.

Eaton Rapids, Mi. 48827

Questions: 866-483-9642

Florida Auxiliaries LET'S SHINE

for our Veterans and their families



Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright



Jeanne Laurine
VFW National Home Chairman
Jeannelaurine8@gmail.com

VFW NATIONAL HOME

Santa Shop 2026 Gift Suggestions

Lego Kits, Toddler Toys	Remote Control Cars
Men's Toiletries/Gift Sets	Inexpensive Watches
Wallets and Billfolds	Barbie Accessories (cars, clothes, etc.)
Inexpensive jewelry - Men & Women	Gift Sets with Candy
Small Tool Sets	Jerkey or Popcorn Gift Baskets
Pet Toys (dog, cat, rabbits, etc.)	Teen Boy or Girl Body Sprays, Cologne
Car Emergency Kits	Travel Coffee Mugs/Tumblers
Coffee Cup Sets	Scented Body Washes and Lotions Gift Sets
Nail Polish/Makeup Sets	Teen Boy Shaving Kits/Gift Sets
Squishmallows	Craft/Activity Sets
Sports Balls-Basketballs, Footballs, Softballs, Kick Balls and Soccer Balls	Science Kits for Kids
Christmas Tree Ornaments/Christmas Decorations	Dolls, Small, Large, White and African American
Sport Water Bottles/Cups	Portable Bluetooth Speakers, Headphones, Ear Buds
All Branches of Military Hoodies, T-Shirts, Hats for all Ages	Men's and Women's Slippers
Binoculars, Walkie-Talkies	Fanny Pack Belt Purse, Crossbody Purse
Sport Team Hoodies, T-Shirts, Hats (all ages)	Hot Wheels Tracks, *Have Plenty of Cars*
Super Soft Cozy Blankets	Coffee, Tea, and Hot Cocoa Gift Sets
Michigan State University & University of Michigan Items	Hello Kitty, Star Wars, Fort Nite, Marvel, Pokemon Items

Santa's Shop is a store where our children can shop for Christmas gifts and experience the joy of giving. We stock it with gifts appropriate for all ages; children may be shopping for moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, big brothers, little sisters, best friends and other special people. To help with Santa's Shop, donate ***new*** *items appropriate for all ages, but especially for adults. Overflow of generous gifts to the Santa Shop will also be available to the children for birthdays, special events and an incentive closet. When mailing packages or making a delivery, please indicate your gift is for Santa's Shop and* ***delivered no later than December 4, 2026****. Gifts can be delivered to: VFW National Home, Attn: Santa Shop, 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Please call 866-483-9642 with questions.* ***Thank you!***

Updated 6/12/2026

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2026

HEY THERE FLORIDA FAMILY! HAPPY THANKSGIVING / VETERANS DAY !
Can you believe we're in NOVEMBER already? I can't think of a better time of year to get those fundraisers going for Department President's Special Project, Esophageal Cancer Research, and the National Joint Special Project, Operation Bring Them Home.

IT'S THE PERFECT "SEASON OF GIVING" ACTIVITY !
Now's the time to "gobble" up those chances. Have you picked WHAT fundraiser you're going to do to reach the Red Hibiscus Level? Here's some ideas: some simple..some a little more involved..but we are ALL pretty much EXPERTS at fundraising..it's what we DO!
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED……

RESTAURANT NIGHT - Partner with a local restaurant or chain to receive a percentage of the day/evening sales in exchange for free wait staff, bussing tables, etc .

TRIVIA OR GAME NIGHT – Charge an entry fee per team / person and offer a small donated gift for the winner / winners.

COOK – OFF COMPETITION – Charge Participants to enter their best chili, soup, dessert, BBQ, etc. and charge Attendees a "tasting" fee / voting right. Give a small trophy or gift for the winner.

SILENT OR LIVE AUCTION – Gather donated items or professional services and auction them off.

HOLIDAY FLOWER / WREATH SALES – Pre-sell seasonal flowers or wreaths during the "Season of Giving". Work with your local florist / greenhouse for discounted prices for you to sell at a profit.

SPECIAL DINNER NIGHT WITH BASKET AUCTION OR RAFFLE. Getting the food items donated along with the Auction items gives you more profit. (Spaghetti is cheap and easy!!)

REMEMBER, WITH ANY OF THESE IDEAS, ANYTHING HOMEMADE GOES WELL. Baked goods, blankets / quilts, as well as trips, sports memorabilia, and golf outings from your Donors. I have found MILITARY themed items / baskets and Lottery scratchoff boards go VERY well.

EXCUSE YOURSELF FROM THAT THANKSGIVING FEAST AND GET CREATIVE!!

REMEMBER….I am here to help. PLEASE JUST ASK !! We are all on TEAM WRIGHT!!

Approved by:
Dept. President
Kathy Wright



BECKY KIEFFER CHAIR
DEPT. PRES. SPECIAL PROJECT
Bkiso2012@gmail.com



Dept of Florida VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Program November 2026

Growing Stronger for Our Veterans
Plant the Seeds. Inspire the Voice. Create the Future.

Celebrate participants with your Post

Give Thanks and Keep Opportunities Growing! Thank you for helping students share their voices this fall! As we honor veterans this month, let's keep those school and community connections growing!

Celebrate participants with your Post

Plan a Red-Carpet celebration for all participants. Choose a date, approve a budget, prepare certificates and invite families and teachers. Give students a chance to share their work and honor the veterans who inspired them.
Save your event photos and invitations. The National Red Carpet award entry form is due to the Department Scholarships Chairman by **March 31, 2027.**

Spotlight Continuing Education

Who in your Auxiliary family is returning to school? Share the application with members, spouses, sons and daughters age 21 or older who need help pursuing college or vocational training. The qualifying member must have one year of membership by the deadline. Four $2,250 scholarships are available, one per Conference. Use MALTA Member Resources—Scholarships.
Due February 15, 2027, to National Headquarters.

Reconnect with high school artists

Contact art teachers, homeschool groups and community art programs. Share current forms for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and the separate 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest, both for grades 9–12.
Student entries are due March 31, 2027, to a participating Auxiliary. Review size, media and artist statement requirements with educators before students begin. Arrange a December progress check before winter break.

A little planning now helps December

Before Thanksgiving, confirm school contacts, schedule early-December reminders and arrange entry pickup or drop-off details. Have recognition dates, volunteers and supplies ready before holiday calendars fill.
Partner with Youth Activities: Illustrating America entries for grades K–8 are due to participating Auxiliaries **December 15, 2026**. Help share current forms, check that families know the deadline and arrange collection and judging with the Youth Activities Chairman.
High school Patriotic Art entries remain due March 31.

Include scholarships in holiday giving

Consider an approved Seeds for Scholarships display or fundraiser supporting the National Continuing Education Scholarship Fund, National Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund, or local awards and recognition. Select the purpose and approve the plan in November.

December Red-Carpet Idea

Cocoa, Cookies & the Red-Carpet
A welcoming December celebration with hot chocolate, donated cookies and a festive photo backdrop. Introduce each participant, present a certificate and invite families to take photos together. Add a "Sweet Words of Encouragement" table where members write personal congratulations.

Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright

Please reach out to me if you have any questions!
Stoney Lawrentz-Edwards
Scholarship Chairperson
StoneyLawrentz@gmail.com





Veterans and Family Support November 2026



Program Goals:

VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs * Assis Veterans, Service Members & Their Families
Promote Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness

#VFW Grants



Financial Assistance Grants (up to $2500) for active-duty members cover necessities i.e., mortgage, rent, utilities, vehicle repairs and so forth. This is not a loan, no repayment required. Hardship must tie to service.



VFW Unmet needs Grants (up to $1500.00) for active-duty families facing service-related hardship. Covers similar expenses to the finical assistance grants.



#Still Serving Grant (up to $1500.00) for VFW posts & Auxiliaries. This helps support community service projects for veterans. This is on a reimbursement basis.



Post Assistance Grant (up to $2500.00) will help VFW Posts in need of building repairs and/or equipment repair that will improve support for veterans.



Uniting for Veterans Grant (up to $1500.00) is a matching donation for food, money, item donations for Veteran Support Organizations. This grant is to help provide direct aid to veterans in need.

All the grants are found on the VFW website

www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/post-grants



Most National Grants support Active-Duty Service members.
Veterans can receive assistance by contacting their local post for grants and community programs funded by the VFW Foundation.





Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright

Kelly Barr
Veterans and Family support Chairman
kabarr66@msn.com



Veterans and Family Support
November 2026



NOVEMBER AWARENESS & FUN NOVEMBER

National Military Family Month A great time to show our support to the families of Active Duty and Veteran Families. Have a Party to show our VFW Auxiliary gratitude to Veterans or active-duty family.

Hunger and Homeless Awareness to many of our veterans are homeless or their families are going hungry. November and December are a great time to adopt a Veteran or Veteran Family. Supply them with the makings for Thanksgiving and or Christmas Dinner.

November 3, 2026 Is Election Day don't' forget to Vote. Have Volunteers available to take a veteran or veteran's family to vote.

November 11, 2026 Is Veterans Day, what you can do to recognize the veterans that served? Have a parade celebrate them for their service. Smaller post, invite a Veteran from every campaign to speak about and answer questions about what they did during their time in service. Include youth and give them opportunity to ask questions.

November 26, 2026 Is Thanksgiving! A great day to donate to a family an entire Turkey or Ham Dinner for Thanksgiving. A turkey and all the trimmings for them to cook. Or invite a couple of veteran families or active-duty families that have never been to a VFW and serve them dinner.



Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright

Kelly Barr
Veterans and Family support Chairman
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Youth Activities – November 2026

Program Goals

Sponsoring & Working with Youth Groups – Patriotism through Literacy – Illustrating America

DEADLINE FOR ILLUSTRATING AMERICA
DECEMBER 15, 2026

Engage YOUTH with Veterans Day through hands-on learning, creative projects, service, and meaningful connections with veterans.

BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS

Help youth understand the history and purpose of Veterans Day.

- **History projects:** Research a U.S. conflict and its effects on veterans, then present the findings**.**
- **Guest speakers**: Invite local veterans to share their experiences and build empathy and respect.
- **Documentaries or videos:** Show age-appropriate films about veterans and follow with guided discussions.

Plan Meaningful Activities

Use interactive, creative, and service-focused activities:

- **Letter-writing campaigns:** Write thank-you letters to veterans in nursing homes or VA facilities.
- **Art projects:** Create thank-you cards, patriotic banners, or flag-themed artwork.
- **Storytelling:** Read books about veterans, then write or illustrate original stories.
- **Flag etiquette:** Teach the proper handling and display of the U.S. flag.



Connect Youth with Veterans' Needs

Service-learning projects deepen engagement:

- **Care packages**: Have youth gather needed items and assemble packages for veterans.
- **Interviews**: Encourage youth to record conversations with relatives or local veterans and compile them into a class documentary.
- **Fundraisers**: Organize student-led events that support veterans' causes.

Build Community and Celebrate

Make Veterans Day a visible, shared occasion:

- **Ceremonies**: Feature patriotic music, readings, and performances.
- **Community displays**: Showcase veterans' stories, photographs, and student artwork.
- **Virtual events**: Offer online discussions, quizzes, or creative challenges for remote participants.

Encourage Continued Engagement

- **Reflection**: Ask students to describe what they learned and how they can honor veterans year-round.
- **Ongoing service**: Encourage continued volunteering or mentorship through the VFW Auxiliary.

Tip: Match activities to participants' ages. Younger students may prefer crafts and stories, while high school students can lead research, interviews, and service projects.

Combining education, creativity, service, and community helps youth participate meaningfully in Veterans Day and embrace its values of gratitude, respect, and patriotism.



Approved by:
Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright

Growing Stronger for our Veterans

Sherri Golder
Youth Activities
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