

# 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](mailto:dktilley@comcast.net)

cut-off February 27, 2026



August 2025

# AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR



## PROGRAM GOALS

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

**National President's Theme**     *"From Sea to Shining Sea our Veterans Keep Us Free"*

**Department President's Theme**     *"Building Bridges for our Veterans"*



## September is Suicide Awareness Month

Together we can *"BRIDGING THE GAP FOR OUR VETERANS"*

- Be the United Front in Supporting our Veterans through Awareness in Malta under member resources go into Veterans and Family Support for more information.
- Invite the community to Your 9/11 Patriot Rally show your colors and A great opportunity for an Outreach Program in Remembrance
- When entering your Post, how do your Flags look? Ready to replace?
- At meetings your room set up? Details in our Podium Ritual Book.
- **REPORT, REPORT,REPORT**, in detail, tell the story!



**#AuxiliaryPatriotism**

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** Patriot Day

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** VFW Auxiliary Birthday - Established in **1914** to honor the sacrifices of our Brave

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** Constitution & Citizenship Day Established in **1787** the framework of our government and rights

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** Airforce Birthday

**September 19<sup>th</sup>** POW/MIA Awareness Day - 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** Gold Star Family Day -last Sunday

**September 29<sup>th</sup>** VFW 126<sup>th</sup> Birthday Established **1899** by 13 Veterans of the Spanish-American War

Approved by:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates

Michelle Butler  
Americanism/ Patriotic Instructor  
American.Patriotic.2526@gmail.com

# AUXILIARY OUTREACH

AUGUST 2025

The Department's goals this year for Auxiliary Outreach are :

- 1) BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
- 2) INCREASING AUXILIARY PARTICIPATION IN OUTREACH.

**The heat is on, Florida. I'm not talking about the outside temperature! I'm talking about getting those partnerships established in the Community to get your Auxiliary Outreach program started. Have you established WHICH group you want to partner with? Have you discussed and voted on it in an Auxiliary meeting? Are you getting LOTS of Aux Members involved?**

## AUGUST EVENTS:

**10th National Spoil Your Dog Day.**

**16th International Homeless Animals Day.**

**21st Senior Citizens Day**

**Maybe these August events above will give you some ideas. Talk to your local animal shelter. Do they need Volunteers for any projects they have going? Maybe they're having a Neuter/ Spay Day or a Vaccination Day that you can volunteer to help out. How about those doggy day care facilities in your area? I'm betting they could use help with walking their "guests" or helping clean out kennels, water and food bowls, etc. And what about the Senior Citizen groups around you? They have TONS of events they need**

**Volunteers for. Bingo, Dinners, Trips..... GET THOSE IDEAS FLOWING AND GET LOTS OF MEMBERS TO HELP!**

**NO \$\$\$ ! YES HOURS ! REPORT IT!**



Approved by:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates

Becky Kieffer  
Auxiliary Outreach Chair  
bkiso2012@gmail.com

**“BUILDING BRIDGES  
FOR OUR VETERANS”  
ONE POPPY AT A TIME.**

**AUGUST 2025**



**“BUDDY” POPPY &  
VFW NATIONAL HOME**

**VFW “BUDDY” POPPY - A PROCLAMATION**

A GREAT Idea to not only educate your local government about what the “Buddy” Poppy means to the VFW, but you can also ask them to issue a Special Proclamation to urge the community members to not only recognize the merits of this cause but by also supporting this symbol of appreciation for the sacrifices of our honored dead. This can be achieved by donating on a day set aside for the distribution of the “Buddy” Poppy. Under the Proclamation, this day is when your Post & Auxiliary can set up in the community hosting “Buddy” Poppy drives. The Proclamation Template that you may print or email to your Mayor can be found using the QR code below, VFW “Buddy” Poppy Program link.

Additional Ideas to raise money for the Relief Fund through “Buddy” Poppy donations:

- Hold a contest to guess how many Poppies are in the jar. Donation to enter. Give out a Prize.
- Print “Buddy” Poppies out and for a donation people can write their names on the Poppy, create a green field and “plant” the poppies on the field.
- During parades or community events, set up a table or walk around the event wearing your Auxiliary attire & hand out Poppies & Flags be sure to carry a Donation basket/bucket.
- Display “Buddy” Poppy “take one donate one” on tables if you are hosting a dinner or event.

Make sure you receive approval from your Post or Community first before doing any of the above events.



V F W  
NATIONAL HOME

**Health & Happiness Fund of 25 cents per member from the Auxiliary supports the National Home by providing Maintenance of Auxiliary sponsored buildings, emergency repairs, renovations & also provides Christmas and Graduation gifts to the children of the National Home. Consider making a personal gift by logging into MALTA and select Make A Gift.**

Approved by:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates

**How your Auxiliary can support the VFW National Home:**

- **Purchase items from the National Home’s Amazon Wishlist**
- **Become a Home Front Hero**
- **Purchase a Tribute or Centennial Brick in your Auxiliary’s name**
- **Create awareness by wearing VFW National Home apparel and educating others about the National Home.**
- **“Do more Stock the Store”**



**Jennifer Holland, Dept Chairman**  
**jenniferLholland72@comcast.net**



# Whitmore's Warriors Class of 2025-2026 Project



LET'S DO MORE  
STOCK THE STORE



V F W  
NATIONAL HOME



## Whitmore / Callahan 2025 / 2026

Store Equipment (Refrigerators, freezers, etc and Food)  
Consists of purchasing equipment for the retail section including coolers and freezers for fresh and frozen food, and beverages, dry goods and other sundries that are deemed most useful to residents. This fundraiser will also purchase an honor system point of sale program that allows residents to enter the store with a swipe card, pick out items and pay for them with a credit or debit card both during and after business hours.



# EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

## Revitalization

National President's motto "Be The Lighthouse In Somebody's Storm" and Department President's motto "Bridging the Gap for our Veterans" mean so much when we are talking about Revitalization.

When an Auxiliary is struggling and just trying to maintain, they are not able to do what we are here to do and that is to help our Veterans.

It is very important that we are able to quickly determine the Auxiliary is a "Yellow Flag", just in need of some mentoring (Performance Improvement Plan). If these Auxiliaries are not identified in time, it could lead to a "Red Flag" where Suspension is needed. If you are a part of an Auxiliary or know of an Auxiliary that is a "Yellow" Flag, please reach out to Department or me as soon as possible. No matter how little or big you feel it is.

Our goal should be to make sure we do everything we can to ensure our Auxiliaries are staying healthy.

What can we do to help keep Auxiliaries with a "Green Flag"? Here are some ideas:

- Know and understand your Bylaws
- Utilize Building on the VFW Foundation
- Host a fellowship dinner at the Post
- Say THANK YOU, often
- Remember, we are all volunteers here for a fantastic cause.
- Listen to your members, they need to be heard too.
- Create an idea board, for all members to use.
- Make EVERY MEMBER feel welcome.

Now I want to hear YOUR ideas!! Make sure to email them to me.

Approved by:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates

AUGUST 2025

●  
"BUILDING BRIDGES FOR OUR VETERANS"

National Ambassador QR Code



National President's Theme

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

Department President's Theme

*"Building Bridges for Our Veterans"*

Don't forget to  
Report, Report, Report!!



Sherri Golder  
Ext/Rev Chairman  
[sherrigolder@gmail.com](mailto:sherrigolder@gmail.com)

# Historian Media Relations

August 2025

## Have questions about your programs?

Join your Department Chairmen for the School of Instruction and Program Fair happening from **August 1—2, 2025** at the Florida Hotel.



## How is your Auxiliary celebrating summer?

**Membership / Buddy Poppy Drive**

**Americanism / Patriotic Instructor**

**Auxiliary Outreach**

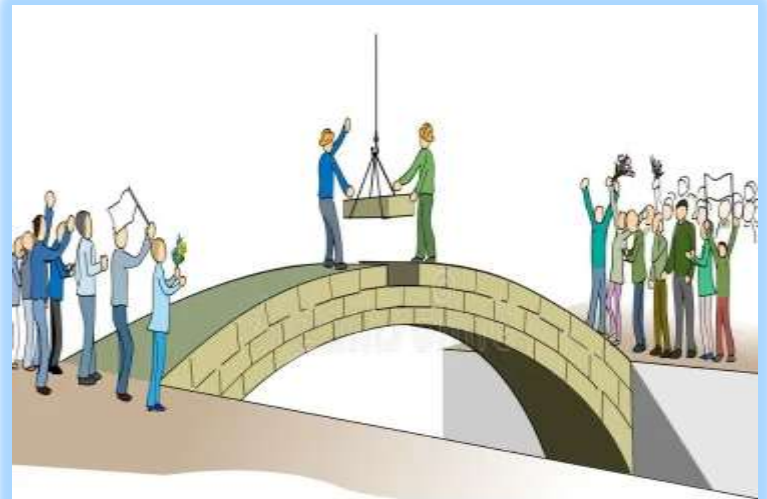
**Extension & Revitalization**

**REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!**

Share your Auxiliary in Action with a brief description

## Tips for best Photographs

- ❖ **Educate Yourself**
  - What can you do with your camera/phone
  - How to position your camera/phone correctly
- ❖ **Be mindful of your subject**
  - Ask permission
  - Make sure everyone's eyes are open
- ❖ **Check your lighting**
  - Bright light/sun behind your subject
  - Change position to better capture your subject



**"Bridging the Gap for Our Veterans"**

Approved by  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates



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





# Hospital

## August 2025



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

- **August 1<sup>st</sup> is Air Force Day:** Have a Special Day for those who served in the Air Force.
- **Purple Heart Day is August 7<sup>th</sup>:** Maybe have a special Recognition for those Veterans.
- **Monthly Birthday Party:** Celebrate Monthly with the Veteran's in the Hospital for their Birthdays. Get your Auxiliary to sign Birthday Cards & Deliver.

- ❖ September 1<sup>st</sup> is Labor Day: maybe have a special luncheon
- ❖ September 11<sup>th</sup>: National Day of Service: Have a prayer Day
- ❖ September 19<sup>th</sup> POW/MIA: Have your Post & Auxiliary do a ceremony
- ❖ September 28<sup>th</sup>: Gold Star Mother's Day: Honor any Gold Star Mother that maybe in the Hospital, VA, Assisted living Facility.
- ❖ September 29<sup>th</sup>: VFW Day: Celebrate have a Karaoke Party, Paint Party, play games.

Volunteers needed daily at our V.A hospitals, Domiciliary & Clinics.

Here's a few tips for recruiting Volunteers.

- ✓ Emails and phone calls
- ✓ Sign up sheets
- ✓ Talk to your members & non-members (over the age of 14) get them involved
- ✓ Find out what your volunteers' interests are and plan accordingly to events coming up.
- ✓ Be sure to always recognize your Volunteers for a job well done.



Approved by:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates

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



Viki Stripling Hospital Chairman  
Vikiplottsdistrict11@yahoo.com





# LEGISLATIVE

AUGUST 2025

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

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

When the VFW National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan participated in a veterans organization roundtable, hosted by House Minority Leader and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, she was asked what members of Congress could do to better understand the issues that veterans face. Her response was to host Town Hall meetings to hear directly from veterans in their district.

### Get involved

- Attend a function where your Legislators are going to be.
- Wear your Auxiliary attire so they know who you represent.
- Given the opportunity – introduce yourself.
- Go with 1 or 2 Priority veteran bills in mind, know if the bill is in the Senate or House and be prepared to share with the appropriate legislator.
- Know if they are a co-sponsor of the bill and if they are – thank them! If not ask them to consider the bill. Be sure you know what the number and name of bill is.
- Give them your business card if you have one.



## FOLLOW THE BILLS AND TAKE ACTION

***'Bridge the Gap' between our Veterans' issues and Legislators***

Study the issues laid out clearly in the VFW Priority Goals. The goals are grouped under six areas of concern:

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

Approved by:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates



Pamela Monroe  
Legislative Chairman  
Anamcarax2@gmail.com



AUGUST 2025

**VFW AUXILIARY  
DEPT. OF  
FLORIDA**

# Membership/ Mentoring

## Our Key Focus for the August; Invest!

Check list for investing in your membership. ...

- *Do you have your Program Chairman assigned for the year?*
- Planning committee scheduled to meet to create an outline for a successful year.
- Membership orientation packets created for new members. Easily accessible membership applications?
- *What Programs will you focus on?*
- Standing orders voted on for the ensuing year.

*These are just a few ideas to help invest in your members, these will help encourage growth in your membership. Our focus continues for membership, "invite, include and invest".*

As your membership/mentoring chairman, I want to hear from you! I want to know how you're inviting new members and including your current members. Please explain how you're investing in your members. I want to read your mentoring reports!



M.A.L.T.A. is back up and new membership percentages are posted. Your membership bridge pins are being handed out at SOI, as you hit 90%, 95% and 100% charms will be awarded at our annual conferences. All Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers will receive.

Checklist for investing in your membership! Please use M.A.L.T.A. to send out membership dues reminders to your annual members. Did you raffle off a lifetime membership?



### Approved by:

Department President  
Mike Yates



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

# Presidents Special Project Veterans Village

Building Bridges of Hope  
August 2025



The funds you raise for this year's project will help reimburse the VFW for the floors that were refinished last year. This will help the VFW to focus on other projects at Veterans Village.

## Department Awards

The Bridge of Lions \$100.00-\$499.00.

Dames Point Bridge \$500.00-\$999.00.

Seven Mill Bridge \$1000.00-\$1599.00.

The Sunshine Skyway Bridge \$1600.00.

*The deadline for all donations is to get recognized at  
June Convention will be April 15, 2026.*

## ADOPT A VET

### At Veterans Village

This program will require you to send the veteran you adopt cards for the major holidays, Birthdays cards and Care packages. What a great way to remember the veterans that served our country by taking care of our own. I will have more information about the veterans for you at

School of Instruction from 5pm to 7pm.

Where you can adopt a Veteran at the Village.

I look forward to seeing you.



Approved by:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates

Kelly Barr  
Department Presidents Special Project  
flpresproject2526@gmail.com



# ***Adopt A Veteran***

Veterans Village Resident Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Room # \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Month of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Adopting Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_

This program is to give extra attention to those residents at Veterans Village. Please DO NOT send them money, instead - send cards on the Holidays, remember them on their Birthday & at Christmas with a special gift.

Contact Kelly Barr for information on who you can Adopt:

719-963-3370



# SCHOLARSHIPS

August 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 VFW 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 31 March 2026.

## PROMOTE, REPORT!

School is getting ready to start – Step up Promoting Efforts  
Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen,  
Young American Patriotic Art, 3-D Patriotic Art

- **PROMOTE:** Reach out to your School District Superintendent – smooth the path for engaging with the schools.
- Personally visit public and private schools, homeschool groups, youth organizations, Scouts, Sea Cadets, Booster clubs, JROTC...
- Take print outs of the QR code and brochures with you.
- See if you can do a presentation in a classroom, at a student assembly, back to school night, or a scholarship fair at the school or colleges.
- Have flyers, brochures, applications and print outs of the QR code available at Post Open House/membership drives, community events/festivals, churches ...
- **REPORT** how you are promoting and educating the community on each of the scholarship contests – details matter - Who, What, When Where, Why.
- Remember **\*\*Auxiliary Awards\*\*** for The most creative and/or unique event educating the community.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

"Be the Lighthouse in Somone's Storm"



Are you or another member wanting to go back to school or learn a new skill – Let them know about the Continuing Education scholarship.

### Build the Fund

- Host a dinner / dance
- Basket / 50/50 Raffles
- Walk-a-thon / Bike-a-thon
- Talent show
- Scavenger Hunt
- Guess how many (erasers, jellybeans,...)

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

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

Know a veteran or military member needing financial assistance to meet their education goals – The VFW's "Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" may be able to help. <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support>





# Veterans & Family Support Program

## Building Bridges for our Veterans

### LAYING THE FOUNDATION

The VFW Auxiliary legacy is built on service. Supporting Veterans and Family Services isn't just a program; it's the heart of our mission. These services provide critical lifelines – from VA claims assistance to emergency financial aid and mental wellness resources. By actively engaging, we ensure our Veterans and their loved ones receive the care and support they earned and deserve. Let's demonstrate that **"No One Does More For Veterans"** by volunteering our time, raising awareness, and ensuring these vital programs thrive. Our commitment honors their sacrifice and strengthens our communities. Involving each and every one of our members strengthens our bonds of fellowship and builds a service-minded commitment to our Veterans!

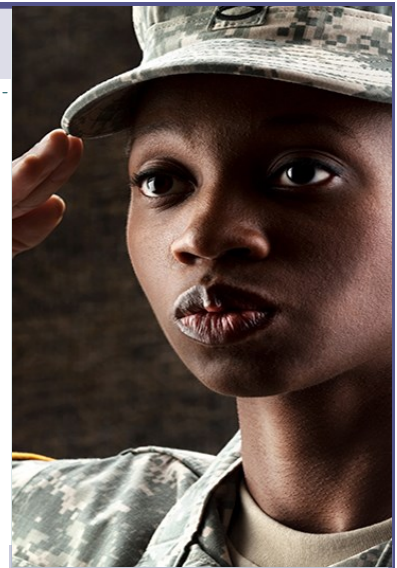
### SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT:

#### AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS DAY

Agent Orange Awareness Day, observed August 10th, commemorates the first day the toxic herbicide was sprayed during the Vietnam War in 1961. This day honors veterans and all individuals affected by Agent Orange exposure. It aims to raise awareness of the devastating, long-lasting health consequences, including cancers and other serious illnesses, that continue to impact service members and their families. The observance shows the importance of ongoing support, and education about the legacy of this chemical warfare agent and the need for continued advocacy for those affected. The VA has information about Agent Orange exposure at <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>

Approved by:  
Department President

Mike Yates



### UNITEING TO COMBAT HUNGER

The VFW Foundation established the UTCH Grant which, restricted to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries, is a matching grant of up to \$1,500 for monetary, food or item

donations to local food banks or pantries. For more details on the UTCH Grant or to apply, visit [vfwfoundation.org/Grants](https://vfwfoundation.org/Grants).



Ryan M. Harris  
Veterans & Family Chair  
[Ryan.Harris.CISA@gmail.com](mailto:Ryan.Harris.CISA@gmail.com)

# Auxiliary Youth Activities

August 2025

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

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



## Program Goal 3:

- Patriotism Through Literacy

### **Youth Groups:**

- Elementary & Middle Schools
  - Public Libraries
  - After-School Programs
- Daycare Centers & Preschools
- Youth Focused Organizations
  - School Clubs
  - Home School Associations
- Youth Community Service Groups
- Nonprofit Organizations Youth Advisory Councils
  - VFW Posts & Auxiliary Halls



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

- Coordinate with school librarians or teachers for read aloud days, book donations, or themed literacy events around patriotic holidays (e.g., Veterans Day, Constitution Day).
- Partner with Public Libraries for special “Patriotism Through Literacy” story hours, book displays, or craft and read sessions with red, white, and blue themes.
- Organize reading activities, book drives, or invite Auxiliary members to read to the kids and share their stories with different daycare centers, preschools, and/or home school associations.
- Host a monthly or quarterly “Read with a Vet” event where veterans read patriotic children’s books to visiting families or scout troops.

Approved By:  
Dept. President  
Mike Yates

Kristy Possert  
Auxiliary Youth Chairperson  
2025-26  
goldeancnhorteam@gmail.com

