



SUNSHINE E-NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

Celebrating America's

VFW Auxiliary National President the country gathered at the site of Carla Martinez hosted the 2023 the last spike driven to complete Celebrating America's Freedom the transcontinental railroad. Event at Golden Spike National President Carla arrived by Historic Park in Promontory, Utah. locomotive to begin the festivities. President Teresa had the privilege President Teresa participated in of representing Florida. the parade of Presidents. Auxiliary members from all over



Meet the Newest Line Officer



To all members of the VFW Auxiliary in the great state of Florida,

I am Jason Estell from District 9 VFW Post 6827, and I would be humbled and honored to have your support as candidate for Department Guard 2023-2024.

I am a Lifetime member joining the VFW Auxiliary in 2015 under the eligibility of my father Wendell Estell a Vietnam veteran who served in the United States Air Force for 8 years. I am also a proud great-grand son of a WWII United States Navy Veteran.

Prior to joining the VFW Auxiliary in 2015, I was a member of the Pinellas Park Post 4364 Men's Auxiliary for 7 years where I served in various Officer positions including Treasurer and President. In 2015, shortly after the VFW Auxiliary opened membership to male members, I joined the Pinellas Park Auxiliary 4364, where I was elected to serve as the first male Auxiliary President in 2016 and in 2018 was elected as the District 9 Auxiliary President. I have also held several Department of Florida Chairman appointments under Past Department President Maggie Gilchrist and Gail Hadley. I appointed as the Department Credentials Chairman and Program Advisor under Past Department President Tela Harbold.

In 2019, I was appointed as the first male National VFW Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Ambassador under Past National President Peggy Haake appointed me. I am currently serving as the National VFW Auxiliary Membership Ambassador for 2022-2023 year under National President Jane Reape.

It is my ambition to serve our veterans and their families in any capacity. I feel strongly that the success of the Auxiliary depends on everyone working together as an organization. I know that with my experience and knowledge of this organization, I can be effective while making a difference, and ask for your support as Department Guard 2023-2024.

Loyally,

Jason Estell



Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Each District should bring a decorated pumpkin to Fall Conference to be judged then raffled for Department President's Special Project

Wooden Flag Raffle

For Dept President's Special Project

**\$5 each or \$10 for 3
300 Tickets Available**

(Tickets Available at Fall Conference and Mid-Winter Conference)

Drawing at June Convention

Fall Conference Agenda

The Fall Conference will be held at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando October 20-22.

The tentative agenda is:

Friday, October 20

1:00 pm Department Chairman Meeting (closed)

2:00 pm District President's Meeting (closed)

3:00 pm Council of Administration Meeting—open to all members

Saturday, October 21

8:30 am Fall Conference Chairman Presentations

Lunch Break

2:30 pm Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action Program with the VFW

All meetings are in the Legends Ballroom 1st Floor.

All meetings are tentative and subject to change

Veterans Village Fundraiser

Department Commander and Department President have a challenge to see who can bring in the most money at Fall Convention. Bring your donations for Veterans Village! Pumpkins will be passed around to collect the donations. Let's show the VFW that the Auxiliary can raise more than they can anytime!

Auxiliaries at Work

On September 26th VFW Post 10087 Auxiliary presented the Gainesville VA Hospital with numerous much needed items which include Chemo bags, socks, underwear and more. The items were collected by District 7 Auxiliaries. Pictured are Mike Yates, Carol Franker, Deborah Wilson and Patricia Lampasona.



Auxiliary 4127 held its annual Freedom Walk to commemorate 9-11. The event was attended by 500 members, youth and community. Participants included JROTC units, Boy Scouts troops, Young Marines, South Florida Trail Riders, firefighters and local law enforcement. After a short program, participants walked 2 miles before returning to



the Post home for lunch.

Members and community could sponsor a flag in the Field of Honor for a loved one.

Auxiliaries at Work

On Saturday, August 12, 2023, Auxiliary 3282, District 19 members partnered with Kids In Support of Soldiers (K.I.S.S.) and the Volusia County Young Marines in packing 75 care packages for troops overseas. K.I.S.S. is a non-profit organization which began in 2009 and was founded on the desire of children to support our deployed service men and women in the Armed Forces. Monthly boxes are sent to the deployed troops with items that are considered "the simple things in life". Things we take for granted or don't even think of, that are priceless commodities for those serving abroad. At each event, K.I.S.S. begins with the Pledge of Allegiance led by a child in attendance. Deployed troops receive a care package each month until they return stateside.

Post 3282 and Auxiliary 3282 members donated \$700 in cash and approximately \$300 in non-perishable food items at this event, in addition to assisting in setting up, packing boxes and breaking down after the event. It is the hope of our Auxiliary that we can continue to partner with K.I.S.S. at least one time per year in the upcoming years.

We honored these amazing VFW Auxiliary members with "good job" awards at our meeting! Our Auxiliary has some amazing members! [Sara Brady](#), June Martin and Susan Berger all help a Veteran in need with funeral arrangements and were by his side in a time of need. And our amazing LUAU committee received this award for volunteering their time creating our fabulous event.



Auxiliaries Commemorate Prisoners of War/
Missing in Action Remembrance ceremonies.

Auxiliary 1590



Auxiliary 7721



Veterans Village



Auxiliary 8093