

SUNSHINE E-NEWSLETTER

Back to School Edition!



October 2025 Issue NO 4

Go Team Florida

Building Bridges for Veterans



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Greetings,

What a great time of year we're approaching. It's the start of fall, and in this month, we must remember that many of our members at some point may have fought with Breast Cancer, a very devastating disease. So, as we go through this month, let's keep them all in our thoughts and continue our fight and support to end this disease from impacting another person's life.

As we go through this month, Halloween is a great way to continue Building Bridges for our Veterans. Halloween reminds us that behind every costume is a real person, and behind every great cause is our strong VFW auxiliary.

Our membership is the heartbeat of what we do—and together, we're stronger than any fright the season can bring. As we plan some spooktacular fun this month, let's engage with our communities with communications and be visible with our actions by showing how we support our Veterans and their families. Always work with your post to help make this a fun time for the children (even those who are children at heart, while being full-grown adults). Silly fun is a great way, where more ideas may come about.

So just don't wear a mask be a member of something bigger, as we continue Bridging the Gap for Our Veterans as we will always Be the Lighthouse in Somebody's Storm!

Michael Yates
Department President

Veterans Village Veterans Day Ceremony

Tuesday November 11th 2025 at the VFW Veterans Village 1:00 PM

13005 N.E. 135 St. Ft. McCoy, FL 32134

VFW Veterans Village Annual Golf Tournament

Juliette Falls

6933 SW 179th Avenue Road
Dunnellon, FL 34432
352-522-0309

Price \$300.00 Per Team /
\$75.00 Per Person
Meal & Awards to Follow

Saturday October 4, 2025 – 8:30 AM Start Time

VFW VETERANS VILLAGE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT GOLF REGISTRATION FORM

Juliette Falls Golf Course
Saturday, October 4, 2025

7:15 A.M. Registration / 8:30 A.M. start time

Please Print Names

4 – Person Team - \$300.00

Player 1. _____
Player 2. _____
Player 3. _____
Player 4. _____

Single Player - \$75.00

Name: _____

Hole Sponsor - \$75.00

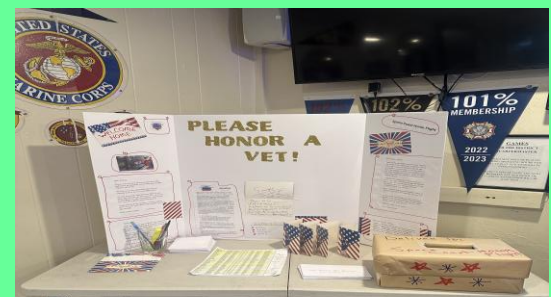
Name: _____

Check or cash must accompany registration form.

**Make checks payable to: VFW Veterans Village
Mail checks to: Department of Florida VFW
543 NE Sanchez Avenue, Ocala FL 34470**

Auxiliary 10148 Receives Riveter Award

Auxiliary 10148 and Wrote 50 thankyou notes for the Space coast Honor Flight for September and won a Riveter award.



District 21 Holds School of Instruction

The district 21 school of instruction, the result of months of planning and collaboration, successfully strengthened leadership across our Auxiliaries. District 21 commander David Bear Julie opened the event by introducing his officers, followed by past department president Kathy Roman, who spoke on honoring office, tradition, kindness in leadership. Breakout sessions in a group reporting class left members more informed, confident, and inspired to advance the Auxiliary's mission with teamwork and dedication.



TAKE NOTE: "FOR ASSISTANCE LOGGING ON TO OUR REPORTING WEBSITE:

CONTACT DEBBIE TILLEY @ dktilley@comcast.net or call 904-460-9345

DO NOT USE THE CONTACT US BUTTON!"

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

Monthly Program Focus: Extension Revitalization & Mentoring

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.

September is National Suicide Awareness Month!

September serves as a reminder that suicide is preventable and that everyone can play a role in supporting Veterans in connecting them with resources. A single act can make a difference in the life of a Veteran in crisis. It is important to reach out and connect with Veterans and we can show support by doing a "check-in", spending time with them or just asking how they are doing.

As an Auxiliary or even a District, you can do "call to action".

- ✓ Invite all your members, past and present to come together and take the VA S.A.V.E. training. This can be coordinated by contacting your local VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator by visiting: [VeteransCrisisLine.net/LocalResources](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/LocalResources)
- ✓ Ask the Coordinator for items that can be shared within the Post and your community, bringing awareness to the Veterans Crisis Line – 988.
- ✓ Extend the invite to your community. (You may even gain a member or two)

National requires only five (5) things of an Auxiliary:

- 1) Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meeting per year. Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- 2) Dues should be paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year.
- 3) Quarterly audits by Trustees must be submitted.
- 4) Officers elected, installed and reported to National no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email.
- 5) The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31.



Sherri Golder
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Auxiliary 4538
Crawfordville
Extension &
Revitalization

Extension Revitalization & Mentoring – Sherri Golder

sherrigolder@gmail.com

National Ambassadors QR Code





We love to see our VFW Auxiliary members helping to ensure the school year is off to a great start for kids in their communities. Thank you, Auxiliary 4864, for being one of our Auxiliaries in Action!



Auxiliary 8189 Delivers!

Auxiliary 8189 delivered school supplies to four local elementary schools. Rock Crusher Elementary, Homosassa Elementary, Lecanto Primary, and Crystal River Primary all received book bags brimming with school supplies!



Auxiliary in Action



VFW Auxiliary 9610
Florida Auxiliary members came out in force to help the Town of Lake Park with their recent Back to School Extravaganza in an act of Auxiliary Outreach.

This morning at the VFW Post 10093, we were packing up the school supplies that were donated to take to Safety Harbor Elementary and middle school. We could not convince Miss Kristina to get in the picture with us. She did a lot of work on this too! Again, thank you to the members who donated to the school supply's and donated money as well!!



Palm Coast VFW Auxiliary #8696

Aug 1 •

Our sincere appreciation goes out to everyone who contributed back-to-school supplies for our veterans' dependents and to those who came out today to stuff the backpacks.



Auxiliary 10141 is hosting a Back to School Supply Drive at the **Palma Sola Vfw Post VFW Post 10141 Bradenton, FL**. Thank you in advance for your generosity! 🇺🇸

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The Auxiliary is collecting school supplies for Jesse H. Miller Elementary School. Estimated delivery date - August 12th, 2025.

- Wide ruled lined writing paper
- Composition notebooks, wide ruled, (black marbled only)
- One inch 3-ring binder w/elastic cover
- Spiral, single subject notebooks (red, blue, yellow)
- Plastic folders with pockets and prongs (yellow, blue, green)
- Copy/Computer paper 8 1/2 x 11
- Cap erasers
- Pink bar erasers
- Colored pencils, 12-count
- Pencils, #2
- Pencil sharpener
- Pencil pouch or hard box
- Highlighters
- Expo markers, fine & regular tip
- Crayons, 24-count
- Color markers, washable
- Glue sticks, large
- 3x3 sticky notes
- 2x2 sticky notes
- Stickers, 3x3, blank tip
- Index cards, 3x5 ruled - 100 ct.
- Headphones, over the ear with aux cable
- Regular size BAND-AIDS
- Hand sanitizer
- Gallon size zipper bags
- Baby wipes
- Facial tissues - Box
- Small items for Treasure Box
- Backpacks/bookbags

VFW AUXILIARY

VFW Auxiliary 10087 will be delivering much needed school supplies to Forest Ridge Elementary School. The donations were made by our generous Auxiliary members under the supervision of Commander Bill Merryman and President Jack Carter.



Vfw Auxiliary 10137 participating in the annual Back to School Bash, sponsored by Langley Health Services.



Back to School Bash

JULY 26, 2025
10AM-3PM
SUMTER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
7620 STATE RTE 471
BUSHNELL, FL 33513

THERE WILL BE:

FREE BACKPACKS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, HAIRCUTS, FOOD, GAMES, BOUNCE HOUSES, & MUCH MORE
*ALL CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE SUPPLIES GIVEN ON FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS

SPONSORED BY

- Langley Health Services
- SECO Energy Foundation
- Sumter County Sheriff's Office
- Family Church Sumter
- Christian Love Center
- e3 Family Solutions
- Family Builders
- B & B Bounce & Jump LLC
- Century 21 Home Property Associates
- City of Bushnell
- e3 Family Solutions
- First Baptist Church of Webster
- Outlier Image
- Public
- Sumter County Farmer's Market

Honoring Our Heroes: Heartfelt Visit to Highland Pines Nursing Home

Members of the Auxiliary and VFW Post 10304 District 9 - Pat Brunner, Mike Grimmett, Michelle Huslander, and Mike Longergan visited 19 veterans at Highland Pines Nursing Home bringing patriotic candy M&M's as a token of appreciation.

The team expressed heartfelt thanks to each veteran for their service. Many of the residents were especially talkative and visibly uplifted by the visit.

A touching moment occurred when the group happened to speak with a new patient who was dining with his son. Though he had difficulty speaking and had just been admitted the day before, it was discovered that he is also a veteran. He will now be included in future visits - an important connection made purely by chance.



Celebrating a Century of Strength: Honoring Gold Star Mother Marian Perez on Her 101st Birthday

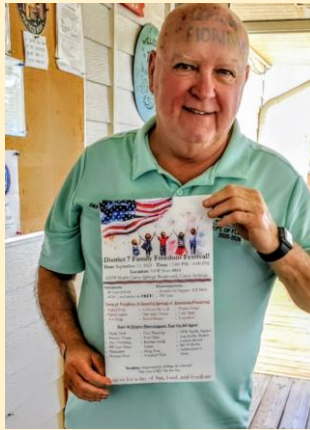
On August 31st, members of district 13 came together to celebrate a truly remarkable woman Gold Star mother Marian Perez on her 101st birthday. Representing post 10100 were Jennifer and Joe Holland, and from post 8463, Marie and Larry Haas. Together, they treated Marion to a special launch in her honor. The group first met Marian five years ago and has made it a tradition to celebrate her birthday every year since.

Marian's middle son, Frankie, was lost in Vietnam, and she has been a dedicated member of district 13 since 1971. She proudly still carries her original auxiliary membership card, which she shared with the group four years ago. Marian was showered with love, flowers, balloons, heartfelt cards, gift cards, sweet treats, and a handmade Buddy Poppy pin. Her joy was evident, and while she appreciated the attention, everyone agreed that the true honor was theirs to know and celebrate such a vibrant inspiring woman.

As auxiliary members it's the small acts of kindness that make a lasting impact. Honoring Marian is a reminder of the deep gratitude we hold for the sacrifices made by Gold Star families. Her strength, spirit, and continued involvement are testament to the legacy of service and love she carries forward.



District 7 Freedom Festival



Sunshine E Newsletter Word Search

B	H	M	L	U	Y	R	E	N	I	H	S	N	U	S
N	O	G	V	A	S	R	E	T	E	V	I	R	U	H
T	E	T	N	D	V	D	U	S	C	H	O	O	L	O
H	O	E	E	I	E	I	X	T	O	U	H	Q	E	M
F	R	I	W	U	R	M	T	P	N	Z	C	S	O	E
T	I	M	R	O	Q	O	O	S	F	E	T	D	X	C
Z	T	Y	J	T	L	N	T	C	E	C	C	D	J	O
B	N	Z	B	Y	A	L	A	N	R	F	X	X	Q	M
H	Z	M	L	J	H	P	A	B	E	A	E	Z	G	I
X	Q	O	Y	R	W	C	Q	H	N	M	C	Q	H	N
H	M	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	C	Z	T	Y	P	G
A	Z	T	E	N	O	I	S	N	E	T	X	E	Y	Z

Freedom
 Festival
 Century
 Extension
 Revitalization
 Mentoring
 School
 Riveter
 Banquet
 Halloween
 Homecoming
 Conference
 Patriot
 Democracy
 Sunshine



Scan the above QR code for the
 Sunshine E. Newsletter video
 presentation featuring photos of
 Auxiliaries from across the state.

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- Youth Program – Lanaie Reed lanwileth@gmail.com
- Program Advisor – Debbie Tilley dktilley@comcast.net

Keep up to date with the monthly promotions from your chairmen!



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

Deadline to Remember:

Don't Forget to Pay your District Dues!
Deadline is September 30th

Dates to Remember for 2025 – 2026

• School of Instruction	Florida Hotel, Orlando FL	July 31 – August 3, 2025
• National Convention	Columbus, Ohio	August 9 – 14, 2025
• Department Fall Conference	Florida Hotel, Orlando FL	October 16 – 19, 2025
• Southern Conference	Montgomery, Texas	November 6 – 9, 2025
• National Mid-Year Conference	Cruise – Key West & Bahamas	February 9 – 13, 2026
• Department Mid-Winter Conference	Florida Hotel, Orlando FL	February 12 – 15, 2026
• C.A.F.E National	Washington D.C.	February 28, 2026
Legislative Conference		March 2-4, 2026
• Dept Commander & Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming	Florida Hotel, Orlando FL	March 14, 2026
• National Sr. Vice Conference	TBD	March 19-22, 2026
• National Presidents Visit (Fri – Mon)	Various	March 20-23, 2026
• Veterans Village Picnic	Fort McCoy, Florida	March 21, 2026
• Planning Meeting for Kathy Wright (May change)		April 4, 2026
• Department Judging		April 29-30, 2026
• National Jr. Vice Conference	TBD	May 14-18, 2026
• Department Convention	Renaissance Orlando, FL	June 11-14, 2026
• National Convention	Reno, Nevada	July 24-30, 2026

Patriots Pen VOD Deadlines

Local VFW Post - 31 October 2025

District VFW Chairman – 15 November 2025

Department VFW Chairman – 15 December 2025

