

MAY 2026

VFW Auxiliary

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

REMEMBERING
PEGGY HAAKE

MID-YEAR CONFERENCE
KEY WEST & BIMINI

FINAL CELEBRATING
AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NATIONAL GUARD
CANDIDATES

VFW'S VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY &
PATRIOT'S PEN
WINNERS



RENO, NEVADA

VFW AUXILIARY'S 113TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 25-29, 2026

Reference vfwauxiliary.org, the National Facebook page and the National E-Newsletter for the latest details.



DATES & DEADLINES

May

- | | |
|----------|---|
| MAY 1 | • Loyalty Day
• VAVS forms due to National Headquarters |
| MAY 2-31 | VFW's Day of Service kickoff and events |
| MAY 5 | • Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Department entries due to National Headquarters
• Illustrating America Art Contest Department entries due to National Headquarters |
| MAY 8 | V-E Day |
| MAY 10 | • Mother's Day
• Year-End Reports due in MALTA |
| MAY 16 | Armed Forces Day |
| MAY 25 | Memorial Day |
| MAY 31 | Deadline for National Convention registration and Delegate registration |

June

- | | |
|---------|--|
| JUNE 10 | Membership Recruiters due in MALTA |
| JUNE 14 | Flag Day |
| JUNE 21 | Father's Day |
| JUNE 30 | End of 2025-2026 Program Year and deadline for all donations |

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About the Cover

The POW/MIA flag was created in 1971 by World War II pilot and graphic designer Newt Heisley, commissioned by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, and adopted in 1972 specifically to create awareness about U.S. troops captured or missing in Vietnam. Before the CAFE ceremony, Deborah Crowder, National POW/MIA Flag Bearer of Auxiliary 10226 in North Carolina, accompanied by VFW Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan, carried the POW/MIA flag down to the apex of the Vietnam Wall. *Photo by Nicole Panteleakos*

GET DIGITAL



AI: Artificial, Yes. Intelligence? Not so much.

Did you know that nieces can join the VFW Auxiliary under their uncle's service? Or that our first-ever National Senior Vice-President was Margaret Armstrong? Did you know Auxiliary units are entitled to one Delegate for every 50 members at National Convention? Or that we had a Celebrating America's Freedom Event in Savannah, Georgia, in 2025?

If as you read the above, alarm bells went off in your head, congratulations! You are an informed VFW Auxiliary member. **All of the above are false.** Nieces cannot join under an uncle's service, our first National President, Margaret Armstrong, never served as National Senior Vice-President, Auxiliaries get one Delegate for every 35 members at National Convention and there was no 2025 Celebrating America's Freedom Event, nor was there ever one held in Savannah, Georgia.

But if you asked Google's AI Assist any of those questions, you'd be told otherwise. This is because Google's AI Assist is unreliable. It gets its answers from posts and comments all over the internet with no oversight or accuracy checks (though you can "downvote" answers you receive that you know to be false).

And it's not just Google. A Connecticut member recently tried to find a flight to a conference without the help of VTS, so they asked ChatGPT for the best flight. An affordable, direct flight immediately came up... on an airline that doesn't exist.

They discovered this when they attempted to book – thankfully, no credit card information had been entered anywhere, but this is also a good reminder that anything that seems too good to be true probably is. So what is AI? According to IBM, "Artificial intelligence is technology that enables computer and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy." It can have many uses, some of them genuinely helpful, but it is only a simulation. The "creativity" it outputs in the form of generative AI images, videos and writing is created by stealing from real artists, actors, writers and content creators, and the "human learning" is only as good as the humans it's learning from, which could be anyone.

A recent Trivia Tuesday post asked members what is the preamble to the VFW Auxiliary *Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual 2026*. Some members answered correctly. Some did not. When Googled, the answer given by AI was an incorrect one, with the citation/source being the person on Facebook who answered incorrectly. Two days later, when National HQ gave the correct answer, Google's AI began directing to that instead. This is a reminder that it's always important to check the source before believing the first result to come up when you search. If the source is "vfwauxiliary.org - Homepage," the answer should be correct. If the source is "User Gladys Mooney via Facebook comment" the answer likely isn't. Or better yet, go straight to the source. If you have questions about the VFW Auxiliary, go to our website or MALTA, email us at info@vfwauxiliary.org or reach out to us on our official social media pages. Our staff's intelligence is not artificial, and we're here to help! 🇺🇸 NP

get SOCIAL





“It is not too late to get those renewals in, stand up a new Auxiliary and get those at-large members back to current and active status.”

Dear members —

With July just two short months away, I know we're looking forward to the excitement and fellowship of the 113th Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada this year. It will be exciting to learn who will receive awards and to cheer one another on as we celebrate those Departments who are inducted into the Circle of Excellence.

Before the Convention convenes, there is still much to be done. It is high time to take a hard look at membership. It is not too late to get those renewals in, stand up a new Auxiliary and get those at-large members back to current and active status.

During each visit across the nation and abroad, I have reminded you how important our work is to America's military veterans, their families and communities; I have expressed how important you are to the overall success of our organization.

Because of our mission and all the vital work that is required of us, I'm sure you will agree that we simply cannot allow the Auxiliary to fall into decline. Please give the Membership Program your full attention all the way to the final deadline.

In line with moving the organization forward as we head into Department Convention season, please refer to Bylaws section 804-B C D & E for information on election of new Officers and section 812 #11 about entering Installation Reports into MALTA.

This month, VFW Day of Service kicks off on May 2. We encourage all Auxiliary members to assist their VFW counterparts with these community projects throughout the month.

Congratulations to all Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners and to the Departments who assisted and encouraged them on their journeys. I also want to commend all of the talented students whose artwork has advanced to the National level in our Patriotic Art and Illustrating America contests as well as those members and the family of members who participated in our Continuing Education Scholarship Contest that is my special project this year.

During the upcoming National Convention, we will elect our own future leaders. Please be sure that your members know the candidates in order to cast votes that accurately reflect your Department's sentiments for this big decision.

Until we meet again, you have my love and respect. Thank you for *Being the Lighthouse in Someone's Storm*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois Callahan". The script is fluid and cursive.

LOIS CALLAHAN
National President



*I look forward
to seeing many
of you in July
at National
Convention.*

Dear members —

Even though the Program Year is winding down in a couple of months, we still have much to accomplish.

May is a busy month, which is a wonderful thing! We're turning in National-level Patriotic Art (2-D and 3-D) and Illustrating America entries. Be sure you're paying close attention to rules and requirements for contest entries. Find these in the latest brochure and on our National website. Also this month, we honor our veterans and service members on Armed Forces Day and the heroes we've lost on Memorial Day. We can team up with our Posts for community give-backs with VFW's Day of Service, now in its fifth year. (Don't forget to share your pictures with us! Email info@vfwauxiliary.org.) The day is May 2, but you can support events throughout the month. We're getting registered for National Convention where we will elect and install Officers, including our new National Guard. Read more about our candidates on pages 17 and 18 and in a future edition of the National E-Newsletter.

Don't forget to stay current with our E-News and social media. Each platform has a different twist on content for and about our members, but with equally good information.

Keep sending us your feedback on stories you've read or would like to read for our Readers Voice section of this magazine as well as your #AuxiliariesInAction photos to info@vfwauxiliary.org. We want to hear from you!

I look forward to seeing many of you in July at National Convention. In our host city of Reno, Nevada, we'll be able to reunite with fellow members, make new friends, learn about the upcoming Program Year, recognize members for their achievements and welcome special guests. If you haven't already registered, do so in MALTA now. Visit our National Convention web page for more information, including housing, a tentative agenda and brochures from all four candidates for National Guard.

AMANDA COOK

Editor-In-Chief

VOLUME 90 NUMBER 5

Editor-In-Chief

Amanda Cook

Contributing Writers

Nicole Panteleakos &
Kris Baker

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REMEMBERING PEGGY HAAKE



In Hawaii, "Aloha" is a word that is used not only as greeting and a goodbye, but to express love and fellowship, and serving with love and fellowship from first hello to final goodbye is exactly what Past National President Peggy Haake did.

When she was thinking about running for National Guard, she wasn't sure she'd have what it takes. Past National President Gwen Rankin, born and raised in Honolulu, put her finger to Haake's chest and said, "You have heart, Peggy. You have much Aloha." That sealed it: she ran for and was elected National Guard in 2014 and became National President in 2019. She was the first National President to represent the Department of Hawaii and her theme, fittingly, was *Serving Veterans with Aloha*.

When she passed away on April 2, 2026, the VFW Auxiliary lost a sister, mentor and friend. She was "A very determined woman who cared deeply for others," says Past National President Sandi Messenger, who grew close to Haake as they served in the National Line together. Haake "was able to fit into any situation and make it better."

A HISTORY OF CARE

A Life Member of Wilbert Wah Hu Tom Auxiliary 3850, Haake joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility of her husband, Richard, who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1970-1971. Haake liked to "talk story" about their courtship and attempts to marry; the first state they tried to wed in did not allow interracial marriages and the second said she was too young, but they found success on their third attempt. The Haakes had no children, but acted as *Hānai*, which meant they "took care of the family children," explains Rankin. Though Haake enjoyed a long career with the Bank of Hawaii, Rankin says she also worked as a bus driver many years back. "It was her way of taking care of kids to make sure they were safe." In addition, at the bank "She would watch out for the elderly people because she could tell when something was wrong (like possible scams). She watched out for everybody around her – veterans, non-veterans, she just took care of people."

During her year as National President, Haake combined her love of dogs with her love of caring for veterans by making the Service Dog Training Program her special project. She also led 470,000 members to 100% plus in current membership, established the Mentoring for Leadership Program and kicked off the Illustrating America art contest. She chose the Punchbowl in Hawaii as her Celebrating America's Freedom Event location and during her Mid-Year Conference in Honolulu she shared Hawaiian culture with attendees. Though her year was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, she took the struggles in stride, presiding over a mostly-virtual National Convention and not letting it shake her.

"This organization was blessed to have Peggy," says Messenger.

CONTINUING TO SERVE

At the time of her passing, Haake was still serving in numerous capacities on all levels, including as a member of the National Budget Committee, Department Chief of Staff and Auxiliary Junior Vice-President. She was also a Life Member of the VFW National Home, Camp Trotter in Michigan, the DAV Auxiliary and the VFW Veteran's Village in Florida. In her spare time, she enjoyed bowling, softball, gardening and spending time with Richard and Brie, their dog.

"Until the next time we meet," Haake wrote in a *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* address to the membership during the midst of the pandemic shutdown, "Keep doing all the wonderful things you do."

Mahalo, Peggy. Until the next time we meet. 🌸 NP



TOP: Haake celebrated with the shaka, a gesture that shows the Aloha spirit, during the 2021 National Convention. **LEFT:** Haake and her husband Richard in their younger years (inset) and during her term as National President in 2019-2020.

MID-YEAR 2026 CONFERENCE

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA...
ATTENDEES SET SAIL FOR
THE CARIBBEAN

More than 400 members and guests launched on a Mid-Year maritime adventure aboard the Celebrity Reflection Feb. 9-13 roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale with stops in our nation's southernmost city, Key West, and the inviting shores of Bimini, Bahamas.

We cast a wide net, catching everything from receptions and saying "ahoy" to fellow members, mentors and friends alike to a special luncheon for Department leadership and National Ambassadors with inspiring remarks from VFW Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan and VFW Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore at a charming Key West restaurant.

Attendees balanced business with some fun in the sun as we anchored in our tropical port towns and took the opportunity to explore or just relax on sand as white and soft as confectioner's sugar. Some members visited Key West's iconic tourist attraction, the towering 12-foot-tall Southernmost Point Bouy, to snap a few selfies. Others soaked in the town's bohemian vibes, live music and history. Another attraction was the food scene, including "Florida's most famous treat," key lime pie.



Members were greeted in Bimini by an escort of sharks cruising at a safe distance beneath the bright turquoise waters under the pier. Whitmore shared that she had gotten a closer look elsewhere on the island: she opted for a swimming-with-the-sharks excursion! (No fingers or toes were lost, she noted with an easy smile). Bimini had golf carts galore available to rent and zip around the island that, just 50 miles from Florida, is known as the Gateway to the Bahamas. It's surrounded by a little magic, too. The spotted explorer Juan Ponce de Leon in his quest to locate the Fountain of Youth and "off Bimini's northern coast lies a curious underwater rock formation known as the Mysterious Bimini Road; giant boulders, neatly laid. Rumor has it the stones were once part of the legendary Lost City of Atlantis," according to [The Islands of the Bahamas](#).

Also on the agenda was the important business of the Council of Administration meeting during which attendees also heard from Whitmore, VFW Adjutant General Dan West, VFW Quartermaster General Marc Garduno and VFW Foundation Executive Director Hal Roesch. Other

presenters included Mike Wilson, Executive Director of the VFW National Home, 2026-2027 VFW Auxiliary National Guard Candidates and current National Ambassadors, who shared "shoutouts" about the wonderful ways members are working our Programs.

The Council learned about a plan to offer Auxiliary Legacy Life Membership similar to the VFW's that includes different member incentives. Rolling this out would require our membership database to interface with the VFW's, and this is not quite ready yet.



MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

Council wanted more information and voted to postpone this business to allow them more time to consider all aspects of a Legacy Life Member launch and consult about it with the members they represent in their respective Departments.

Council also approved the final 2024-2025 budget that was presented.

“The meeting went so well; I was impressed with the Council members’ questions, comments and thoughtful discussion,” Callahan said. “Spending time with the 2025-2026 Department Presidents and National Ambassadors was a highlight of the trip, and special thanks to Team Arkansas who worked so hard to create a spirit of celebration and fun for everyone.”

Of the trip, Past National President Evelyn McCune said, “The Conference was a success, in my opinion.”

Robin Kohler, Pennsylvania Department President, said her favorite memories of the trip were spending time with her classmates and being pampered by staff and crew. She welcomed the tropical weather, as well.

“It was a wonderful trip to a warmer climate (-1 degree when I left home!) with an amazing family of VFW Auxiliary and VFW members,” she said.

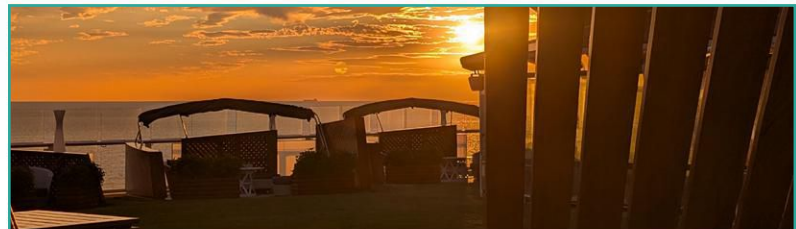
Callahan incorporated a Department Presidents’ celebration into the conference, complete with surprise prizes assigned to random seats at the Council meeting and given in exchange for finding hidden mini lighthouses at the farewell reception.

Other inventive Team Arkansas highlights: “The group carried small gifts to give out when we saw acts of kindness or people with big happy smiles,” Callahan said. “Then there came the best idea of all: Linda Evans suggested a picture scavenger hunt. She had taken several pictures of me in Key West earlier. All you had to do was

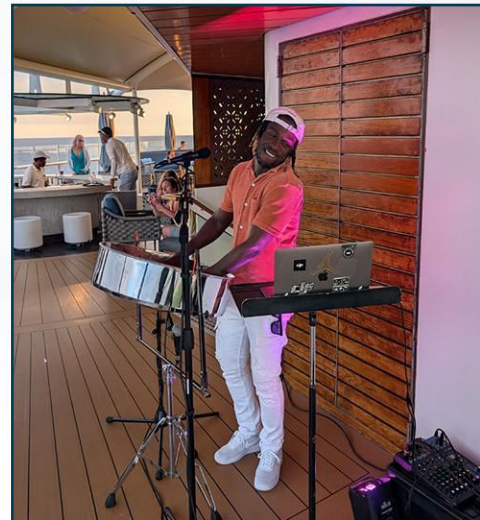
find the spot where I was standing in the picture and take a picture of your own. That's when the real fun started. One of the pictures featured me next to a large metal rooster sculpture. What we didn't know was that the rooster was no longer in that spot, so we decided that ANY picture with a rooster or chicken would count. We got pictures of people with chickens. One person was wearing a T-shirt with a chicken and one person even took a picture of their lunch of chicken salad. The result was a funny collection of creative chicken pictures from members who were all entered in the drawing for the grand prizes. I'm so thankful to Team Arkansas, who went above and beyond to make the Mid-Year Conference fun and unforgettable.”

The castaways of the *SS Minnow* floated in for an appearance on the final night aboard the ship – everyone from Gilligan to The Professor to Ginger and Mary Ann... played by none other than our National Line Officers who presented Callahan with heartfelt words and a group gift. Of her leadership team, Callahan remarked, “I have been blessed with National Line Officers who are so dedicated to the success of our organization.”

See page 11 to see what VFW Auxiliary National Senior Vice-President Donna K. Mills has in store for members who will attend Mid-Year Conference in 2027. ✨ AC



PAGE 7: A fishing boat that looked like it used to double as a beach snack spot points toward the bright blue shores of Bimini. **PAGE 8, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:** A local Key West artist's ever-evolving work. He explained that every day, he adds to the intricate paintings that cover the inside and outside of his BMW. A group of 2025-2026 National Ambassadors stop for a selfie in The Keys. Life Member Barbara Gambrell-Madden and Auxiliary President Danyelle Jones, both of Auxiliary 10321 in Connecticut, enjoy a sunny sail away party from the pool deck. More members dance the afternoon away on day one aboard the Celebrity Reflection. VFW Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan takes the stage with her Team Arkansas. **PAGE 9, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:** A stunning sunset view from the top deck of the ship. *Photo by Brandon Cook.* *Callahan enjoying the sunshine and crystal blue waters in Bimini. * Wisconsin Department President Kim McWilliams and her husband Mark climb into Bimini's biggest beach chair. The captain introduces his crew. **THIS PAGE RIGHT TWO ROWS, FROM LEFT:** Department of Arizona President Brenda Kinghorn and her husband Doug, a Life Member of Auxiliary 2364, enjoy the vista from the Solstice Deck. *National Legislative Ambassador Amy Jo Lett and LaWanna Nelson of Missouri journey to Key West's southernmost point. A closeup of a seashell on a beach in Bimini miniaturizes our giant cruise ship in the distance. *Photo by Ann Panteleakos.* VFW and VFW Auxiliary leadership present at the Mid-Year Council of Administration meeting. **MIDDLE:** Callhan welcomes VFW National Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore to a reception for attendees. **CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT:** A talented musician's steel drum tunes add to the fun vibes at sea. National Line Officers play the cast of Gilligan's Island at the farewell reception. Robin Kohler, Pennsylvania Department President, and Missouri Department President Patricia Burge mingle with friends in the Sky Observation Lounge. A vendor prepares a refreshing fresh coconut drink for beachgoers in Bimini. **Photos by Kristin DiGiacomo. All other photos not otherwise credited by Amanda Cook.*



JET TO THE DR FOR MID-YEAR CONFERENCE 2027

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Find the Mid-Year flyer and buy-in form on our National website, [Events](#).
Learn [more](#) about this Caribbean country that shares an island with Haiti.
It's known for its friendly and welcoming residents and its energy that has Taino, African
and European roots; other European, Asian and Middle Eastern communities have
influenced and enriched the cultural landscape since the 19th century.

(Source: Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism)



DAY OF SERVICE: STILL SERVING

GET INVOLVED IN THE 5TH ANNUAL VFW DAY OF SERVICE

There is a rumbling. You can feel it. In the streets and in our homes, there is a movement sweeping the nation and the world. People are turning back to service for their communities and service for one another. During troubling times, veterans and their families have led the way, and this is represented by the success of the VFW Day of Service. Last year was bigger than ever, and this year looks like it will continue to grow. This annual community service event begins May 2, 2026, and continues throughout the month of May.

Now, in this season of service, we need Auxiliaries to continue to come out and have an influence. Get media coverage, combine resources, organize events and help in any way you can

“VFW Day of Service serves as a shining example of who we are as veterans and military families — not only defenders of freedom, but defenders of our communities,” said Carol Whitmore, VFW National Commander-in-Chief. “Across this nation, VFW and Auxiliary members will roll up their sleeves once again to lead from the front, proving that our commitment to service doesn’t end when the uniform comes off. It simply took on a new mission.”

In 2025, the campaign saw record-breaking participation, with 2,334 events held across all 50 states and in 12 international locations, including Cambodia, Cuba (Guantanamo Bay), France, Germany, Guam, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan and Thailand. All-American Posts demonstrated especially strong engagement, further reinforcing the momentum and appeal of this initiative.

Media coverage surged with a 200% increase in coverage and web engagement remained strong, representing 44% of site traffic being directed to VFW Day of Service-related content.

With record-breaking participation, expanded visibility and a growing global presence, the 2025 Day of Service once again showcased the impact of veterans leading meaningful change



in their communities. To see more about the 2025 Day of Service visit [VFW Day of Service - Still Serving](#).

“We get to set aside one day in our busy calendar year to focus on reaching out to our community and helping our neighbors in need. This past Day of Service’s focus was food for the food bank along with pet food for the local animal shelter,” said Beate Lies, President of VFW Auxiliary 12102 in Waterloo, South Carolina. “Service is a great way to give back to those that have given of themselves to ensure that my rights as a citizen are protected and to those in our community that are in need of a hand up.”

The VFW urges Auxiliaries and Posts to get on board for this year’s Day of Service. Sign up today and let us show the nation how veterans are #StillServing in their communities. For information on how Auxiliaries can report Day of Service hours as they relate to VFW Auxiliary Programs see the *2025–2026 National Program Book* for reporting criteria.

Auxiliaries, do not forget to share your VFW Day of Service photos with National Headquarters. Email info@vfwauxiliary.org with the subject line Day of Service. We would love to feature some of your photos in upcoming editions of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*, our National E-Newsletter and on social media. 🌟 KB

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ABOUT VFW DAY OF SERVICE, CONTACT info@todaysvfw.org.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VFW Post 2113 in De Pere, Wisconsin organized a food drive with the help of Auxiliary members. VFW Post and Auxiliary 9644 in Sheridan, Colorado met for a trail cleanup event. VFW Post and Auxiliary 5789 in Lee’s Summit, Missouri worked on a highway cleanup event for VFW Day of Service. Tucson, Arizona Post and Auxiliary 10254 hosted an animal adoption event.

WAITING AT THE WALL

2026 CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT HELD IN NATION'S CAPITAL



February 28 was a warm, breezy day in Washington, D.C. as VFW Auxiliary members from across the country gathered near the Vietnam War Memorial, a black granite wall stretching more than 246 feet and etched with nearly 60,000 names. They were

attending the 2026 Celebrating America's Freedom Event. Members milled about, some preparing to enter with their Colors, others taking their seats and reading programs and more down by the Wall, where they found the names of old friends – friends who would never grow old.

One of these was Patti Burge, Auxiliary 6337 and Department of Missouri President. The wife of a Vietnam veteran who died from issues caused by Agent Orange, Burge wanted to bring something to symbolize remembrance in a way more personal than an American Flag; she placed a small bouquet of "Buddy"® Poppies on the wall, adding a single one by the name of her childhood friend, John.

"We went to school together from kindergarten to 11th grade... he was one of those boys who would tell a story and make sound effects," remembers Burge with a chuckle. "It was always hilarious to have a conversation with him."

John was shot down and declared Missing in Action; the reason his name is "so far down on the Wall" is because they didn't declare him dead for years. Burge lost several other classmates in that war, at least eight, and all these years later, it hurts to reflect on the loss. She still wears a silver bracelet with John's name on it.

These bracelets, created by two college students in the 1970s as a way to raise awareness of our prisoners of war

and missing service members, represented a tangible connection to one soldier. They were called Voices in Vital America (VIVA) bracelets.

Another Auxiliary member in attendance whose mind was on someone who didn't make it back was Deborah Crowder of Auxiliary 10226 in North Carolina. She, too, was wearing a silver name bracelet, this one in honor of a soldier who remains "MIA." As National POW/MIA Flag Bearer, she would be carrying the flag during the ceremony, but before it began, she and National President Lois Callahan walked down to the apex of the Wall for a photo. As they made their way back to the seating area a few minutes later, the sound of the POW/MIA flag flapping in the wind suddenly mimicked the heavy footsteps of military boots, stopping Crowder in her tracks and momentarily taking her breath away. It was as if the missing soldier whose name was on her silver bracelet was walking beside them, she told Callahan.

It sounded like he was finally home.

"The Vietnam War has been dubbed 'the first televised war,'" said Callahan in her speech. "For the first time, footage from overseas fighting made it into every home with a television set, right between *The Mickey Mouse Club* and *Leave it to Beaver*. The news reported the dead like baseball scores: 55 Americans killed in a firefright in this



province, 27 Viet Cong in that province, night after night, as if these deaths were as expected and inconsequential as April rain. The reporting was impersonal, distanced. And for many Americans watching the news, those numbers were just numbers.”

But they were not “just numbers” for Callahan and her family. She chose the location because she, like many VFW and Auxiliary members, has a personal connection to the Vietnam War: her father was serving.

“For me... the war wasn’t just happening on TV or in a land far, far away, it was right here at home. And after the reporters gave the numbers, along with a general location of the fighting, I remember my mother would run to the television set and she would point at the map and she would say, ‘No, no, no, that’s not where daddy’s at, he’s way up here, he’s not in that fighting right now...’ And so we felt like daddy was safe. It wasn’t until many years later I understood she didn’t know where he was, she just didn’t want her babies to be scared.”

Across the crowd, sniffles could be heard, as attendees were moved not only by Callahan’s memories, but by their own.

“For every number on the news, a family just like ours watched from home, waiting and wondering, ‘Will my father be one of them tonight? My sister? My husband? My friend?’”

Callahan went on to explain how the creation of the memorial came to be, designed by a college student named



Maya Lin, and listed some of the projects and programs the VFW Auxiliary undertook during the Vietnam War to support the troops. This included the special project of National President Lora Waters, Movies from Home, which involved partnering with local news stations and military families to record special videos for deployed troops, films that were then mailed to them overseas, allowing them to see and hear their loved ones, and even meet babies born since they left the States.

“We’d like to bring the boys home (to their families), but we can’t,” Waters said at the time. “So we’re taking the families to the boys.”

The event’s keynote speaker was Past Commander-in-Chief of the VFW John Hamilton, himself a Vietnam veteran who served in the Marine Corps (and a recipient of a Purple Heart with two gold stars). Hamilton explained that he doesn’t make speeches, he tells stories, and one of the stories he told that morning was about his friend, Andy Rankin, whose name is on the Vietnam Wall.

“Andy died as close to me as Cortina (is) now,” he explained, gesturing toward emcee Cortina Barnes, Past National President from the Department of Maryland (formerly D.C.), who was seated directly to the left of the podium. Andy was Hamilton’s buddy, and because he made “the ultimate sacrifice” at age 19, “He never got the opportunity to do all the things that we do.” Hamilton went on to describe the concept of survivor’s responsibility: “Because we did survive, we have the responsibility to serve... but no survivor’s guilt.” He keeps a rubbing of Andy’s name in his office to remind him of that responsibility of service when times get hard.



“This is a wall of remembrance; it’s a sacred ground. People (visiting) are always very quiet. I can tell you, if Andy was here today, Andy wouldn’t be quiet. He’d be telling stories and tales,” said Hamilton. “Those people down there paid the price.”

Toward the end of his remarks, he expounded, “If you’re going to walk down to look at the Wall, and I hope you will because they’re not just names on the Wall, they’re people. They’re... uh...” At this, Hamilton’s voice broke, then he stopped, took a breath, and tapped the microphone on the podium, joking to break the tension, “This thing’s not working.” He then finished, voice still slightly shaking, “They’re my friends, they’re my comrades, and I hope they’re yours.”

Vicki Butler of Auxiliary 12202, Virginia, had never heard Hamilton speak before but was moved by his authenticity and candor. “He tells great stories.” Butler’s father was a Vietnam veteran who served in the late 1960s and a VFW member who didn’t talk about the war much. “I know



there were names of people he served with, good friends, that are up on that Wall,” she said. She enjoyed the CAFE and the way speeches tied back to the VFW Legislative Conference, which would be starting the next day, as the need for continued advocacy on behalf of veterans was abundantly clear when discussing those whose service left them with service-connected health issues, physical disabilities and post-traumatic stress. “I appreciate the intention with which (the location was) picked and the thought process behind it.”

As is customary during Celebrating America’s Freedom Events, a donation was made to the National Parks Service. It was accepted by Parks Superintendent Dr. Kevin Griess, who spoke about his own connection to the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. When he was growing up in a small town in Nebraska, the VFW and Auxiliary were “the core of the community.” An Air Force veteran, Griess has seven uncles and eight aunts who were connected to the VFW and Auxiliary, in addition to his mother, who was also a veteran. Griess explained that the money donated by the Auxiliary will be used to repair the lights, broken stanchions and rope chains that mark the designated area around the Vietnam Wall, a project to be completed by Independence Day. He also advised attendees to visit the Wall after the ceremony, and whether they know someone on it or not, “Find a name and speak it out loud to revive their memory.”

When the speaking portion of the program was nearly complete, Callahan, joined by her husband, Vietnam veteran Terry, plus Hamilton and Griess, made the long and solemn walk down the Wall with a beautiful red, white and blue wreath, which would be placed in front of it. Passersby paused and stepped out of the aisle as they walked, while National Soloist Willa Watts sang *Still Waiting at the Wall*.

“Every name’s a father, or a mother, or a son,” sang Watts. “Or a daughter, or a brother, or a cousin to someone. Oh, a name might be a classmate, or a friend you may recall, there’s nearly 60,000 fallen names, waiting at the Wall.”





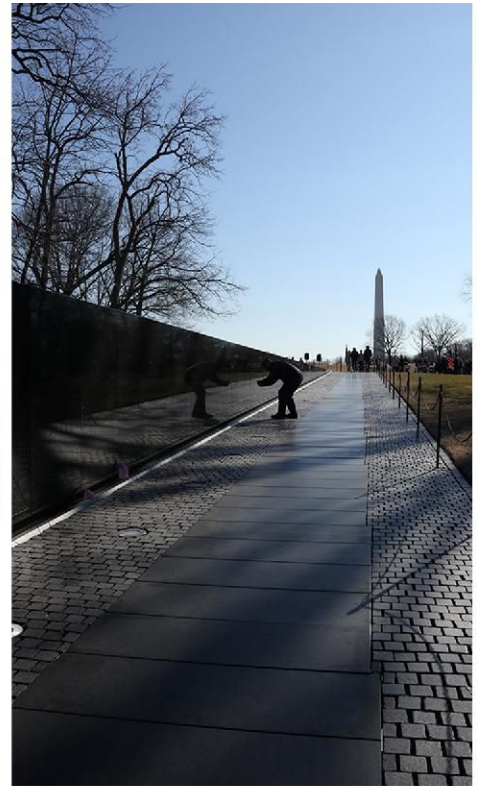
As Callahan placed the wreath, Burge thought about John, Jimmy and other friends killed in action. “What would they have been?” she wondered. “How many kids would they have? Where would they be now?”

The 13th Celebrating America’s Freedom Event is also the last. The VFW Auxiliary started holding CAFEs when we stopped visiting the Statue of Liberty each year on Lady Liberty’s birthday, a tradition that started in 1936. Visited sites since 2013 include the Flight 93 memorial, the Kennedy Space Center, the Punchbowl in Hawaii and the VFW National Home. Nine decades after that initial celebration on Liberty Island, what’s next? Only time will tell.

At the end of this moving and memorable ceremony, National Chaplain Sandra Uzell asked that we “together bow our heads and give thanks for the circumstances that have allowed us to gather here together today, surrounded by memorials dedicated to America’s heroes.” She concluded, “We thank thee, Lord, for the members and veterans here assembled, who are not indifferent, nor disinterested, nor apathetic, but ever-connected by our shared history and ever-committed to our goals of service, unity and friendship.”

Whatever is to come over the next 90 years, we know it will involve volunteerism, unity, friendship and unending love for the families of those who’ve served as we continue to provide Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes.

“Poppies mean we’ll never forget,” says Burge. “And I’ll never forget.” 🌸 NP



PAGE 13: VFW Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan delivers a moving speech at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. during the 13th and final Celebrating America’s Freedom Event. **BELOW:** CAFE emcee and Past National President Cortina Barnes visits with Department Presidents as they line up for their entrance. **PAGE 14 TOP RIGHT:** National Soloist Willa Watts sings a heartrending song. **LOWER LEFT:** Callahan lays a wreath at the Memorial Wall alongside husband Terry and past VFW Commander-in-Chief John Hamilton. **PAGE 15 TOP:** Callahan, her husband and Hamilton approach for the wreath-laying. **LOWER LEFT:** Attendees and presenters recite the Pledge of Allegiance to open the event. Before the CAFE ceremony, Deborah Crowder, National POW/MIA Flag Bearer, accompanied by Callahan, visit the apex of the Vietnam Wall. **PAGE 16 CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Callahan presents a donation to Parks Superintendent Dr. Kevin Griess. A visitor takes a quiet moment to find an important name. Flag Bearers await the ceremony; in the distance, the Washington Monument punctuates the horizon. “Buddy”© Poppies adorn names of friends and loved ones on the Wall. Attendees link hands as the ceremony concludes with “God Bless America.” Callahan and National Chief of Staff/Extension & Revitalization Ambassador Karlene Beams find each other after the event. *Photos by Amanda Cook, Nicole Panteleakos and Stan Borusiewicz.*

2026 NATIONAL



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO RUN FOR NATIONAL GUARD?

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary, because they truly give back more to veterans than any other organization. I have been blessed in my life, and I believe blessings are meant to be shared — to give back, to lift others up and to show that we can always make a difference when we stand together.

My reason for joining at age 16 was my father, Kenneth Clement. Other important veterans in my life are my husband, Chris, and my friend Karen who served in Desert Storm.

My vision is clear: To bring back our reason why — the heart of why we joined the Auxiliary in the first place. When we work together, we honor our mission, our values and those who sacrificed for our freedom.

HOW CAN WE BEST POSITION OUR ORGANIZATION FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS?

The VFW Auxiliary can promote sustained success by prioritizing strong leadership across all levels of the organization. To boost member involvement, consider introducing further mentoring Programs at both the Auxiliary and Post levels, which will encourage greater collaboration and teamwork.

Effective leadership is the cornerstone of a thriving Auxiliary and its future within the organization. Officers should be encouraged to participate in Department and National meetings and become more involved in Schools of Instruction. Mentoring plays a vital role in skills and organizational values, supporting the development of future leaders.

By emphasizing leadership development, member engagement, targeted recruitment, innovative programming and ongoing revitalization, the VFW Auxiliary can ensure long-term success and continued support for veterans and their families for the future of our great organization.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO RUN FOR NATIONAL GUARD?

My inspiration comes from the reason I joined the organization; my veteran husband Earl Fulk. I joined and continue to serve to honor his service to our country. I have learned so much about him and veterans in general to help me be a better advocate and help me navigate and understand what combat has done to him and

other veterans. I have come to appreciate the objectives of our organization and the Programs we support while working to achieve our goals and meet those objectives. Every position I have held, at every level, has taught me something and has made me a better person as a result.

I enjoy passing on my knowledge and experience to others. I want to continue this journey to learn and share. I believe my professional career experience, institutional knowledge and enthusiasm will be a benefit to our organization.

HOW CAN WE BEST POSITION OUR ORGANIZATION FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS?

Mentoring has been an important element of the Extension & Revitalization Program; however, I believe we need more emphasis on a leadership component. I am a firm believer in succession planning. In my position of manager, I found a need to create team leaders to help prepare them to assume the role of manager. I have always believed our positions of Junior and Senior Vice were meant to learn to become President and I think more communication could be utilized to emphasize the roles of those positions. I also believe training and guidelines are needed to assist Officers in the areas of conflict resolution working on a suspension team. Additionally, we need to be proactive in meeting developing needs and concerns.

GUARD

Candidates



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO RUN FOR NATIONAL GUARD?

Running for National Guard wasn't in my future. I was happy with my accomplishments at that point. You begin to think, how else can I help and be a part of this great organization? I believe in our traditions, our Programs and more importantly, our work with veterans and families.

Running for National

Guard then became the path to continue the journey. You meet members, listen to their thoughts, ideas and see how passionate they are about what they do. I want to be a part of that, not only in my community, but also around the country. Seeing a smile on a veteran's face, listening to their stories, hearing a member

get excited about projects and working with veterans. So, what inspired me to run - veterans, families and our members. Working together...

HOW CAN WE BEST POSITION OUR ORGANIZATION FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS?

As an organization, we need to start by listening to our members and our veterans. There are ideas our members are anxious to talk about, given a chance. We have our traditions, but it's good to see what we might change or enhance. This helps with communication and members feel we are invested in them. Work with your VFW; we are stronger together. Be visible in the community and promote the organization and Programs. You never know where you might find your next member. Continuing to grow our organization is so important. Many are getting older and our younger members have families and do not always have time. Respect one another, take time to plan, look towards the future and involve your members in decisions.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO RUN FOR NATIONAL GUARD?

My inspiration to run for Guard came from watching for the first time as fellow members I deeply respect ran for National office. Hearing their message, seeing their dedication and integrity as they served a bigger purpose - those experiences made an enormous impact on me. I am committed to serving as they have, to upholding and

embodying the values of this organization in order to inspire the next generation of members.

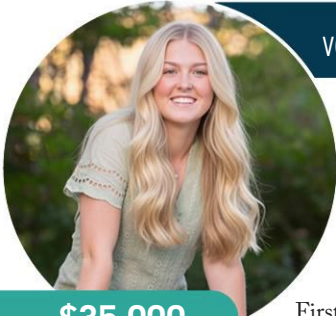
HOW CAN WE BEST POSITION OUR ORGANIZATION FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS?

I feel we can best position our organization for continued success by valuing our younger members. Bringing in the next generation may look a little different at each Auxiliary or Department - this may mean embracing new technologies or finding ways to be current with the things young members find important in their community. But by listening to those younger members and supporting their ideas and contributions, we are showing them they are not only heard, but they are the key to our future success. They are the reason our organization will continue, and they must feel valued if we want them to move us forward.

Find these candidates' brochures on the National website under Events, [*National Convention.*](#)

2025 -2026 VFW

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY | **OLIVIA DREWNIAK** | WOOLWICH, MAINE | T. C. Selman Memorial Scholarship

\$35,000

First-place VFW Voice of Democracy (VOD) winner Olivia Drewniak has strived to live up to the example set by her mother and detailed this in her audio-essay, which addressed this year's theme "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?" She was sponsored by VFW Post 7738 in Bath, Maine.

On November 15th, 2024, Drewniak enlisted in the United States Coast Guard at the age of 17. Not content to wait to serve her country, Drewniak became one of 13 individuals across the nation selected to take part in a pilot program allowing teenagers to enlist in the Reserves between their junior and senior years of high school.

When your mother is a Commander in the United States Coast Guard for over 20 years, you grow up seeing someone devoting their life to service of their country.

In her own words she describes her experience in vivid detail. "I knew that liberty and freedom require sacrifice. And that was a sacrifice I was ready and willing to make. I fought my way through eight weeks of basic training as the youngest and smallest person there. I fought my way through pushups on hot pavement until my hands burned and peeled, being forced to scream at pictures of drowning victims taped to the wall –I couldn't save you' – until bile scorched my throat raw, and running miles with blistered feet, my socks sticking to bloody skin. I fought my way through pain, uncertainty and fear. But my patriotism didn't falter in the face of adversity and in the hard moments I relied on the strength of my conviction that I was serving something greater than myself. Something worthy. Because I wasn't doing it for myself, I was doing it for all the people I hoped to help and all the lives I hoped to make better."

The Woolwich, Maine high school student was awarded a \$35,000 scholarship.



PATRIOT'S PEN | **ANDREW GE** | SAN RAMON, CALIFORNIA

\$5,000

Every morning during his United States League Cadet Program, first-place Patriot's Pen winner Andrew Ge was looking for ways to show his patriotism. He crafted three ways to show his dedication: respecting the nation's symbols, helping his community and constantly striving to become the best version of himself.

Ge discusses the ways he showed that patriotism in his essay which addressed the theme "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

"First, I honor the symbols of our nation. Every school morning, we pledge allegiance to the Flag over the loudspeakers, a simple act that reminds me of the values it represents. The 50 stars stand for the unity of our states, while the 13 stripes honor the courage of the original colonies. These symbols are more than fabric and

color—they represent freedom, sacrifice, and the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Learning about American history has deepened my appreciation for these ideals. By respecting our Flag, our monuments, and our founding principles, I express my pride and gratitude for being an American."

Ge also writes about his volunteer work at the Army's 250th Birthday celebration to highlight his work in the community and his focus on discipline, integrity and determination as examples of ways he is bettering himself.

"Patriotism is not just a feeling—it is a way of living," Ge writes. "Each day, I will continue to 'do a good turn daily' in service of my country, because I believe that knowledge, kindness and effort are what keep America strong."

For his poignant words Ge was awarded \$5,000. He was sponsored by VFW Post 75 in Danville, California.

To learn more about the VFW's VOD and Patriot's Pen for which students compete to win thousands of dollars in college scholarships, click [here](#). Also find next year's theme.

HQ MEMO

AUXILIARY BUSINESS

- **May 31, 2026: REGISTRATION CLOSSES** for all National Convention events and for National Convention Delegates and Alternates. Delegates may be entered in MALTA, sent by mail, fax or email to info@vfwauxiliary.org. Important note! Only members attending National Convention will receive packet materials. Packets will NOT be mailed after Convention. Do NOT register if you do not plan to attend. Members must be present at time of registration to receive packet, but on-site registrants are not guaranteed printed Convention packet materials.
- **Before June 30, 2026:** Input Reports of Installation of 2025-2026 Auxiliary, District and Department Officers online.
- **July 1-August 31, 2026:** The 2026-2027 bond payment for Auxiliary and District Presidents and Treasurers bonds are due to National Headquarters. The Department bond for its Treasurer is also due. Treasurers may purchase the bond online via MALTA or may send via snail mail to the Department Treasurer.

FOR REVIEW

- **Bring your plastic or digital membership card to Convention.** Even though the VFW Store sells metal membership cards, you will need your plastic or digital card for registration.
- **Make sure you are either preregistered** for National Convention (save money by registering by May 31) or you can register on site. Being registered for Convention does not mean that you are registered as a Delegate. In order to vote at National Convention, Delegates must have been elected by their Auxiliary and entered in to MALTA by May 31. Check your MALTA profile to confirm that you are registered as a Delegate.
- **National Guard candidate interviews on Page 17.** Consider their comments carefully before casting your vote for the VFW Auxiliary's next National Line Officer.
- **Revisions and proposed resolutions** to the National Bylaws to be presented at the 113th National Convention. Find these in MALTA.
- **Your email address:** If it is not correct in MALTA, please log in and update your profile, contact National Headquarters at 816-561-8655 or email info@vfwauxiliary.org.



2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted. **Times for various functions are subject to change.** Meeting rooms will be posted closer to meeting dates and are subject to change. Check the National website for updates as we get closer to Convention.

FRI, JULY 24

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Early packet pickup at the Eldorado Resort · Casino

SAT, JULY 25

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

10:00-11:30 a.m. Conference Meetings

Noon-1:30 p.m. 45-Plus Club Luncheon
(Reservations required)

5:00-6:00 p.m. Circle of Excellence Ceremony

SUN, JULY 26

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

9:00-10:00 a.m. Joint Memorial Service

10:45-11:30 a.m. National District Council Member Training

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Past Councilors' Club Luncheon

1:00-4:30 p.m. Programs Seminar and Training

6:00-10:00 p.m. VFW Awards Banquet, Reno Ballroom, Silver Legacy Resort · Casino

MON, JULY 27

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

8:00 a.m.-Noon Joint Opening Session

1:00-5:00 p.m. Auxiliary Opening Business Session

TUE, JULY 28 *(Last day for exhibits/registration)*

8:00 a.m.-Noon Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Auxiliary Business Session

1:30-2:30 p.m. Auxiliary Business Session Continued (if needed)

6:00-8:00 p.m. VFW Patriotic Celebration

WED, JULY 29

7:45 a.m. Presentation of Department Presidents with Colors

8:10-11:30 a.m. Officer Election, Installation and Closing Session

3:00-5:00 p.m. Joint Reception for Commander-in-Chief and National President *(Ticketed event)*, Convention Center

POST-CONVENTION

THURS, JULY 30

9:00 a.m. - Noon National Council of Administration meeting, area between Silver Legacy Resort · Casino and Eldorado Resort · Casino. Look for signage.

REGISTRATION FORM

National Convention: Advance Registration \$25

45-Plus Luncheon (Complimentary) **Year Member Joined**

Name Membership No.

Address City State ZIP

Department Phone Email

Check enclosed Money order enclosed **DO NOT SEND CASH.**

This form and all payments must be received at National Headquarters by May 31.

No exceptions or refunds after this date.

DO NOT ENCLOSE DELEGATE LISTS WITH THIS FORM.

NOTE: Being preregistered for National Convention does NOT mean that you are registered as a Delegate.

SAVE \$15!

Advance registration is \$25.

On-site registration is \$40.

Members may register in MALTA and pay via credit card beginning March 16; otherwise fill out the form above and mail a check or money order to:

VFW Auxiliary

406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor,
Kansas City, MO 64111

Attn: National Convention Registration

Registration must be received by May 31. Registrations received after May 31 will be rejected.

Member must be present at time of registration to receive packet.

45-YEARS PLUS CLUB LUNCHEON

Have you been a member for 45 years or more?

Come join the 45-Years Plus Club at National Convention.

The luncheon will be at noon on Saturday, July 25 at the Convention Center.

Register online or fill out form (above) and mail to National Headquarters. Registration is required to attend.

Note: To register for the 45-Years Plus Club Luncheon, you must have been a member prior to June 30, 1981, and maintained continuous membership since that date.



READER'S VOICE

This is the space for comments regarding your *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*. Mail your submissions to National Headquarters or email them to info@vfwauxiliary.org, marked "Letter to the Editor." We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor should not be interpreted as the opinion of the National Organization.

I just read and shared pages 7-8. Thank you so much! (Talitha was featured in March's Member Spotlight feature story.)

TALITHA BING | AUXILIARY 7607 | FAIRFAX, S.C.

Lots of memories of Reno! (From) 1990-1991 as state President of Indiana!

MARSHA MILLER | AUXILIARY 3418 | BOONVILLE, IND.

FEEDBACK ABOUT THE VFW AUXILIARY'S FINAL CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SEE THE STORY ABOUT AND PHOTOS FROM THIS EVENT ON PAGE 13. FIND THE PHOTO GALLERY ON OUR NATIONAL WEBSITE UNDER MEDIA.

What a moving ceremony. Even the public passing by stopped and saluted as the national anthem was being presented.

DEBORAH CROWDER | AUXILIARY 10226 | OAK ISLAND, N.C.

It was a lovely event and I am happy to say I got to be a part of it.

TAMMY ROBERTS SHELL | AUXILIARY 8729 | LAKE CITY, MINN.

Such a moving event. So humbled to attend and proud to be a part of this wonderful organization. The pictures are great!

KIMBERLY GUNTER DAVIS | AUXILIARY 2242 | PARAGOULD, ARK.

This was a beautiful way to end our Celebrating America's Freedom Events after 13 years. What a great place to end, National President Lois.

VFW AUXILIARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CARLA MARTINEZ
AUXILIARY 409 | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Such a moving and humbling event. I was very touched!

JUSTINE ROBLES | AUXILIARY 5806 | BROOKLYN, N.Y.

VFW AUXILIARY

NEWS

IN VFW MAGAZINE



Look for an article about how family members of VFW members can join our organization and become veterans' advocates in the May/June edition of *VFW magazine*.

It's called "Strength in Numbers" and covers how the VFW and Auxiliary want Auxiliary members' help in advocating on Capitol Hill. The story also features the Auxiliary eligibility wheel. What a fantastic opportunity to reach prospective members! And who better to see it than family members of our veterans – that's who we are.



There's another way to support the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

DONATE YOUR CAR!

Donate your car, truck or boat to the VFW Foundation and your generous donation may even qualify for a tax deduction.

Get started on your vehicle donation!



844.839.4438 | vfw.careasy.org

MEMORIAL DAY

GRAVE MARKERS For use with 3/8" dowel flag. Flag is sold separately. Made in the USA.



5 1/2" cast aluminum emblem with 24" rod.
3200 \$50.00



4 3/4" rugged plastic emblem with 16" rod.
3505 \$14.00



GRAVE MARKER FLAG 12 x 18" flag. For use with the above grave markers. Made in the USA.

2493 1-11 \$18.00 each
12-49 \$17.50 each
50+ \$17.00 each



WREATH 20". Made in the USA.
9221 \$48.00

VFW

VFWSTORE.ORG

CLICK TO SHOP ONLINE!



250TH ANNIVERSARY FLAG Navy blue 3 x 5' nylon single reverse flag, reads correctly from one side. 2525 \$45.90

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SUMMER FIREWORKS PUZZLE 500 pieces. 20 x 20". Average time to complete: 4-6 hours. Made in the USA with non-toxic ink and recycled materials.
1247 \$20.00



PATRIOTIC SCARF 100% silk. 8 x 45".
1693 \$14.00



PATRIOTIC TIE Polyester. 58".
8401 \$15.00



1776 FLAG CAP Five-panel, structured, with hook-and-loop closure. Woven loop label on closure "EST 1899" for the year the VFW was founded.
7201 \$20.00



STAR NECKLACE 17" chain with lobster clasp. 1 1/2" charm. 1012 \$8.00

PARTNERS IN SUCCESS PIN Double clutch back. 1 1/4".
1763 \$5.00



NAVY USA CAP Embroidered USA. Six-panel, structured, low profile, 100% cotton. Adjustable hook-and-loop back closure.
7121 \$16.95

Prices valid through 8/31/2026

Plus Shipping & Handling

1.833.839.8387

VFWSTORE.ORG