

Thank you all for attending Department's Member Involvement Training event last month. To all that didn't attend please plan on attending next year.

For more than a century, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Auxiliary have stood as unwavering pillars of support for America's veterans, service members, and their families. Through its Veterans and Family Support Programs, the VFW transforms compassion into action, offering tangible assistance, emotional support, and a sense of community to those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

These programs are not just initiatives; they are lifelines that can do change a person's life. They reflect the VFW's enduring commitment to honor service, ease burdens, and empower veterans and their loved ones to thrive in civilian life.

Yes, the VFW has a plethora of options to assist, however they are not effective if members do not know what is available to assist our veterans, active military and their families in a time of need. I encourage you to educate yourself the many ways the VFW can assist.

What would you do if someone came to you for assistance? Where would you go? I encourage you to plan. You already know all the great resources available to you to educate yourself. On-line, my go to is the Member Resources" tab in [MALTA](#). Another great resource is your network of members and contacts in your community.

At our MIT I took Lois Callahan, our National President's "The Starfish Story" from our program book and displaced it on the VFS table. We may not be able to make a difference to all but we can make a difference to a few.

The Starfish Story

An old man was walking on the beach one morning, after a storm. In the distance, he could see someone moving like a dancer; as he came closer, he saw that it was a young woman picking up starfish and gently throwing them into the ocean. "Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" "The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in, they will die." "But young lady, do you not realize that there are many miles of beach and thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a difference." The young woman listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the sea.

"It made a difference for that one," she smiled.

- Adapted from the original by Loren Eiseley



Ray Williams
2025 - 2026 VFS Chair