Volume 1/ July 2025

Unwavering Support



Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

Visit our Website





President Brenda Kinghorn's Message



Welcome to the 2025-2026 VFW Auxiliary year!

What a Great 2025 Convention! Congratulations to Past Department of Arizona Auxiliary President Lynn Pierre for a great turn out.

Thank you to District 6 Auxiliaries for sponsoring and supporting my presidency.

I am a proud mother of a retired Army medic from Operation Iraq Freedom campaign, daughter of Korean Army Veteran, niece of a veteran Navy Commander and pilot, granddaughter WII Navy veteran and VFW Commander, sister and sister-in-law of Army soldiers. Also, mother of 2 more boys, 4 granddaughters and 1 grandson. Married to a great guy and my biggest supporter, Doug.

We hope the Auxiliary Convention attendees liked the 2025-2026 Program Kick Off. We wanted to have a **WOW** factor, so each Program Chairmen had to pick out a song that went with their Program. They did a great presentation, and I am very proud of them!!!!

This year we are **Not** having "Project Reports" to fill out, all the Auxiliaries will continue their **PAR**s. Please read each Program Chairmen article for more information.

My Special Project is "Blankets for Bryan" named for my bother. My brother was a homeless veteran, by his choice. December 2013, Oregon authorities found Bryan deceased. "Blankets for Bryan" was formed by my sister in California, to hand out blankets, socks, gloves, hats, etc. to the homeless. We began to collect the same in Arizona. I am asking the Auxiliaries around Arizona to help the homeless in their areas.

Here's to a Great, Productive Year.

We will Show Everyone – Department of Arizona is A Force to be reconwith!



Department Announcements

*The PAR report is up and running. The form is behind log in. Please log in and get your Auxiliary PARs caught up and current.

*The Department is trying something new this year. There will be one **MIT** in Phoenix that will

take place over one weekend. It will start the evening of August 22nd. The flyer is below as well as on the Department website www.vfwauxaz.org under News/Department & National Events. Book your room now.

*Fall Conference is Oct 3-5, 2025. Stay tuned for more information on hotel and banquet.



Member Involvement Training August 22 – 24, 2025

Embassy Suites
4400 S. Rural Rd., Tempe
480.897.7444
\$113 plus tax Includes complimentary breakfast,
evening reception
Code C926 Link Aux VFW
Deadline July 30, 2025

Friday August 22, 2025 5:00 p.m. Meet and Greet Reception Activity

Saturday August 23, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Training and Mentoring
Noon – Lunch Courtesy of HUMANA

1:00 p.m. Training and Mentoring 5:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

> Sunday August 24, 2025 9:00 a.m. – noon Training and Mentoring

National Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio on August 9th-14th

*Resolutions and Ritual changes to be addressed at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio can be found on www.vfwauxaz.org behind login/national convention.

*Parts of the National Convention will be **live streamed** through your MALTA account. Look for news from National on the National convention agenda - sessions that will be live streamed will have an LS after it.



2024-2025 Outstanding Auxiliaries

Mohave Valley Auxiliary 404 **Tucson Auxiliary 549** Phoenix Memorial Auxiliary 720 Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769 Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433 Casa Grande Auxiliary 1677 Santa Cruz Auxiliary 2066 Lt. Col. Joseph D. O'Hanlon Sr. Auxiliary 2357 Wm. E. Hamilton Auxiliary 2364 John M. Jackson Auxiliary 3632 Sgt. J. D. Wadkins Jr. Auxiliary 3713 Catalina Auxiliary 4903 Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990 Barney Figueroa Auxiliary 6271 Eddie May Auxiliary 7061 George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968 Fort Reno Auxiliary 8807 Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242 Howell-Norton Auxiliary 8987 Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399 Victor H. Meliza Auxiliary 9401 White Mtn. Area Auxiliary 9907 James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972 Herbert J. Haenel Auxiliary 10005 James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254 James L. Stanfield Auxiliary 10386 Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014 **Buckeye Auxiliary 12098** Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

Americanism

Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
Barney Figueroa Auxiliary 6271
Brig Gen. Clifford H. Shuey Auxiliary 6306
Eddie May Auxiliary 7061
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
White Mtn. Area Auxiliary 9907
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

Auxiliary Outreach

Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Chloride Auxiliary 2190
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
Howell-Norton Auxiliary 8987
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
Gila Valley Auxiliary 10385
Brig. Gen. Clifford H. Shuey Auxiliary 6306
Eddie May Auxiliary 7061
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399

Buddy Poppy/National Home

Casa Grande Auxiliary 1677
Dode Morris Auxiliary 1760
Santa Cruz Auxiliary 2066
Lt. Col. Joseph D. O'Hanlon Sr. Auxiliary 2357
John M. Jackson Auxiliary 3632
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
Howell-Norton Auxiliary 8987
Herbert J. Haenel Auxiliary 10005
James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254

Hospital

Tucson Auxiliary 549
Santa Cruz Auxiliary 2066
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
James L. Stanfield Auxiliary 10386
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

Legislative

Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Casa Grande Auxiliary 1677
Santa Cruz Auxiliary 2066
Chloride Auxiliary 2190
Lt. Col. Joseph D. O'Hanlon Sr. Auxiliary 2357
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Howell-Norton Auxiliary 8987
Herbert J. Haenel Auxiliary 10005
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

Media Relations

Tucson Auxiliary 549
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399
James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

Membership

Casa Grande Auxiliary 1677
Lt. Col. Joseph D. O'Hanlon Sr. Auxiliary 2357
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
James L. Stanfield Auxiliary 10386
Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014
Scholarships
Chlorida Auxiliary 2400

Chloride Auxiliary 2190
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Fred Morton Hughes Auxiliary 6790
Fort Reno Auxiliary 8807
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
Howell-Norton Auxiliary 8987
Gila Valley Auxiliary 10385

Veterans and Family Support

Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Sunshine Capital Auxiliary 1763
George E. Truman Auxiliary 3584
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
Eddie May Auxiliary 7061
Fort Reno Auxiliary 8807
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

Youth Activities

Tucson Auxiliary 549
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Chloride Auxiliary 2190
Brig. Gen. Clifford H. Shuey Auxiliary 6306
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
White Mtn. Area Auxiliary 9907
Mt. Tipton Auxiliary 9833
Herbert J. Haenel Auxiliary 10005
Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014
Buckeye Auxiliary 12098



Hello Department of Arizona

I'm Heather Lyn, a proud Life member of Auxiliary 7968 in Apache Junction, AZ. I have held several positions in our Auxiliary and have learned a great deal. I also work with/at the Department of Arizona VFW Headquarters, which gives me more opportunities to help our veterans and their families. And now I get to share ideas and passions with so many wonderful people. Like what I saw this past week at our Department Convention in Tucson, where we had our program kickoff. Here are our goals for the year for Americanism.

Flag Education: Honoring and respecting the American flag is significant for several reasons. It is a tribute to the sacrifices and service our veterans made, and it is a symbol of our national unity and identity.

Promoting #AuxiliaryPatriotism: Patriotic Symbols and Traditions: educate others about the meanings and importance of the Patriotic Symbols and Traditions, including the American flag, The National Anthem and The Pledge of Allegiance. Share tips on how to properly display and honor these symbols in daily life. Use the # hashtag when doing your projects.

POW/MIA Recognition: This is critical for recognizing the profound hardships faced by POW's, who suffered extreme conditions and personal anguish while separated from their loved ones. It also highlights the ongoing commitment to account for those who are still missing, ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Star Family Recognition: Star Families represent the immense sacrifice made by American's military families. As Americans we owe a profound debt of gratitude to these patriotic families. Their courage, selflessness and perseverance allows our armed forces to remain strong and our nation's freedoms to endure. We must forever honor their sacrifice and provide unwavering support to our Star Families.

Hope these explanations of our goals will help with understanding the program. I am super excited for the waves of ideas from all of you. Reach out to me anytime my contact info is on Department website: www.vfwauxaz.org behind log in.

Auxiliary Outreach Amy Bennett

#az2526outreach #AuxiliaryOutreach

giving back... providing a helping hand

Hello Department of Arizona!

I am so excited to be your Auxiliary Outreach Chairman this year! I assisted Irene Nowacki as her Co-Chairman a couple of years ago, so I was mentored by a true gem, and gained a special passion for this program as a result!

I am a lifetime auxiliary member of John M Jackson VFW Post 3632 Auxiliary, Tempe, where I am currently serving in the role of Treasurer and District 4 Secretary. I served as Auxiliary President in 1990 and served as the District 4

President for two years from 2021-23.

Let's start out this year with a first priority goal to focus on "perception" and promoting a positive presence to help our communities throughout Arizona. My wish for all is to encourage you to reach out to organizations in your neighborhoods and show them that the VFW and its Auxiliary is a team with a heart to help them support their own goals and not just a "place to have a drink and tell old war stories." The Auxiliary can work hand in hand in our communities by volunteering **time and effort!** Find an organization to partner with that doesn't fit into other program categories, discuss and vote on your activity at your meetings, and wear your Auxiliary attire (pin, hat, name badge, etc.) when volunteering.

Here's a quick thought... August 5th is "National Night Out Day" when you may want to connect with your local police department and ask them how you can provide a helping hand. For more information, check out <u>NATIONAL NIGHT</u> <u>OUT - August 5, 2025 - National Today</u>. September 11th is "Patriot Day" and another opportunity to support events in your community, so you may want to reach out to organizations who are preparing for an event.

"As you shine your **light**, the world grows **bright**, you are a beacon of**love**." Sara Manke, National Ambassador, Auxiliary Outreach, 2025-26.

Remember, You've Got a Friend in Me! Ask me if you have questions!



Buddy Poppy/National Home Peggy Welch

Hello everyone. My name is Peggy Welch, and I am proud and honored to be your VFW Department of Arizona Auxiliary Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman for 2025-2026.

I joined the Auxiliary at Post 10254 in 2022 and became the Post Buddy Poppy/National Chairman in 2023 to present. I joined under my husband, Ted Welch, who is a Vietnam veteran.

I love the program mandate: Honor the dead by helping the living. What an inspiring message. This is "Why" we do what we do best! I am a Registered Dietitian working in a local hospital. I have been humbled by participating in many Honor Walks where employees line the halls for the deceased's family to see the support and respect of staff as their loved one is escorted on one of their final journeys.

I have seen some outstanding activities by your auxiliaries on Facebook and viewed some inspirational Buddy Poppy displays at the annual Department of Arizona Convention in June. I look forward to a more personal involvement with you this coming year.

We have six goals this year, and I would like you to focus on the National

Home goals first. They are to Promote Awareness of the National Home, Promote the National Home Eligibility Helpline, Purchase a National Home Life Membership, and Purchase a National Home Tribute Brick. This is their Centennial year, and discounts are available for those with a centennial membership.

The VFW National Home has 43 single-family homes on over 400 acres in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Actively serving military, veterans, and VFW and Auxiliary members and their families with dependent children can live there rent free for up to four years while they make plans and changes to be successful. The Home has many services in a goal-oriented model to help families. You can get more information at wfw.nationalhome.org/help, with the QR code, or by calling the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200. Share the information at events or individually.

I will be regularly checking Facebook and emails sent by you. Please hashtag activities with #az2526buddypoppy for me to track your program. Also, hashtag #vfwauxaz to share your Program. Another hashtag I would like to see is #vfwauxiliary to let our National members and National Ambassador know the strength of our Buddy Poppy/National Program. I know we do it for our veterans, but sharing can inspire us all!

Let's say "Wow" and flood Arizona with Buddy Poppies and awareness of the National Home. If we help even one veteran and/or family, we are successful.

Chief of Staff Bambi Johnson

One of the priorities of any Department is the establishment of new Auxiliaries. Every Department has unaffiliated Posts, those without an Auxiliary. The reasons for not having one are varied. It may be because they are a newer Post, they may have had an Auxiliary that "aged out" or more commonly, they have never had

together, we can do so much."

"Alone, we can

do so little:

an Auxiliary because they do not understand the value to the Post of having that support.

Let's start this year with a challenge. We may have the ability to change how an unaffiliated Post thinks about Auxiliaries. If there is an unaffiliated Post anywhere in your area, please contact that Post Commander and ask if your Auxiliary could assist them in one of their projects. By volunteering to help their project, you are showing by deeds and actions, how their Post could benefit from authorizing an Auxiliary to be formed, with the help of the Department. Walk the walk, not talk the talk.

Doug Kinghorn, as Deputy Chief of Staff, and I are very excited to begin the year with dedication to help any Auxiliary in engaging more of their members. At the MIT in August, we will be rolling out some new ideas to help you reach the members who do not come to meetings or even visit the Post home on a regular basis.

We are also ready to assist any Auxiliary that feels they need assistance with

staying healthy. We can visit your Auxiliary, listen to issues, find the proper resources for those issues and be there to cheer you on! Please reach out to either of us at any time!



Historian/Media Paulette Marshall

Welcome to the new Auxiliary year! What an amazing convention we just finished, jam packed with activities, tons of new information and the introduction of new Dept. Officers, Dept. Chairs, and the first Council of Administration with the new District Presidents. If you didn't attend, you really missed out. I love connecting with friends old and new.

A quick introduction of myself, as well as being Historian/Media Relations Chair: current Auxiliary 2357 President, District 1 Secretary and Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary Puptent #777 Secretary. I have been a life member since 2021 and have found an absolute home with the Dept. of AZ Auxiliary.

The mentoring I have received through MITs, District Meetings and just the ability to ask questions is a testament

to the strength and commitment of the Auxiliary to bring fresh faces and encourage new member participation.

I am the wife of Navy Brown Water Vietnam Veteran, daughter of an Air Force Veteran, sister of two Army Veterans, one a Panamanian Veteran, mother of Army Afghanistan Veteran as well as mother of a still serving Air Force Iraqi Veteran who is currently stationed in Okinawa, so no loyalty to any particular branch of service just an absolute dedication to all of our veterans.

As Media Relations Chair, I have created a cheat sheet of Hash Tags to use in social media posts that are currently on the Department webpage: www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/Historian/Media. Currently, the Dept Facebook page is down, but I will be working on restoring that as soon as possible. My focus will be on the encouragement of using social media as well as traditional sources of communication to engage both seasoned and new members.

Feel free to contact me if you need help in implementing strategies to engage your members. Hoping to see many of you at the upcoming MIT in August, so we can work one on one, meet face to face and facilitate fantastic communication this year.

Hospital Amy Timbes

Hello Department of Arizona VFW Auxiliary!

My name is Amy Timbes and once again I will be your Hospital Program Chairman for the 2025-2026 year!

I joined the VFW Auxiliary in the year 2000 under the eligibility of my WWII Father and my current husband is a Vietnam Veteran. As a Home Health Care worker, every day the need becomes more apparent to provide quality care for our Veterans and their family members which is why I am so proud to represent the Hospital Program this year.



Hospital Goals this year:

- *Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support
- *Valentines for Veterans
- *Women Veteran Health Care
- *Honors Escort

Did you know, "VFW Auxiliary Members have been volunteering in hospital and medical facilities since the organization's inception in 1914? ... The Hospital Program plays an important role to provide care and compassion to Veterans while helping them to feel included and appreciated."

Just as the Hospital Program Ambassador's theme this year reads, "Caring for our Veterans like the ocean caring for the waves", it seems natural we would give back to those who keep our freedom.

Once again, the Department of Arizona Auxiliary will offer the Hospital Grant-\$250.00 for the Auxiliary to use to better the lives and show appreciation to our Veterans. I look forward to learning about how Auxiliaries plan to interact with and provide happiness to Veterans in Hospitals and facilities serving a Veteran population.

Smiles and Hugs are free! Ask Me!



Legislative Becky Baldwin

Grab Your Surfboards — We're Riding the Legislative Waves!

Hey team Arizona!

This is Becky. I am proud to be YOUR Legislative Chair for the 2025-2026 program year. This year, we're hitting the legislative beach with purpose, passion, and *plenty* of gratitude. The ocean of advocacy can be a little intimidating — and let's be honest, who else thinks the legislative program is *just a little harder* than the rest? \Box

Well, surfing isn't easy either... but it's so worth the ride. So, this year, we're tackling the legislative program *one wave at a time*. Whether you're a seasoned surfer or just getting your toes wet, we've got you covered.

We'll be focusing on **three key waves** to help you stay balanced, energized, and effective.

☐ Wave 1: Waves of Gratitude

Let's show some love! Take a moment to send thank you cards to legislators — not just to be polite, but to keep veterans at the heart of every decision they make. Include a personal veteran story or a link to the Action Corps in your message. Help them remember who they're really voting for.

□ Wave 2: Waves of Training

Advocacy isn't about shouting louder — it's about speaking smarter. This wave is all about learning how to engage the right way. We'll share tips and tools that will help you become an effective voice for veterans, families, and communities. When we know what to say and how to say it, legislators *listen*.

☐ Wave 3: Waves of Action

This is where the rubber hits the wave! We're signing up for **Action Corps**, opening those emails, and actually *clicking through*! (FYI: If you ignore them long enough, you get removed from the list — yikes!) So, stay active, stay informed, and let your voice be heard. Every click, every message, every action counts.

☐ Final Thoughts

No one said surfing was easy — but with the right crew, the right mindset, and a little sunshine, we'll ride every legislative wave like pros. So, wax your board, put on your advocacy shades, and let's make this year one for the books. Together, we *light the way* — with purpose, with passion, and always with a wave of gratitude.

Catch you on the next wave!

Membership Crystal McCarthy

Hello Department of Arizona!

I'm Crystal McCarthy, a proud life member of Auxiliary 10254 in Three Points, Arizona. I joined in 2020 under my grandfather, Henry Smith, a WWII Army veteran.

der an. iety of roles at both the more about the strength,

There's An Ocean of Eligibility

Since then, I've had the honor of serving in a variety of roles at both the Auxiliary and District levels—each one teaching me more about the strength, heart, and dedication that make our organization so special.

Over the past year, it's been an absolute pleasure visiting so many of you across the state and spending time with you at our fantastic Department Convention recently.

Speaking of the Department Convention, we rolled out our first goal.. **WORK THE ELIGIBLITY WHEEL!** Here are the 4 goals for this year. Stay tuned for ideas and challenges throughout the year and help our Department **GROW!!**

 Work the eligibility wheel. Make it your mission to recruit from all categories, and don't forget about adopted, step, and half family

- members—they count too!
- Invite your friends and family. Host a casual get-together or an informal Membership Information Talk (MIT) to share what we do and why it matters.
- Celebrate your members! Make sure they know they're appreciated give shout-outs for the awesome things they do, throw a little party, or just say thank you.
- Use the tools. From the fact sheet, QR code, business cards, or even a custom flyer that shows off your Auxiliary's personality there are many options to suit your every need.

If you ever need an idea or to bounce a new idea off of someone—or just want to say hi—don't hesitate to reach out! My contact info is listed on the Department website. Let's keep **GROWING** together!

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



*Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.

Scholarship Irene Nowacki



Hello Department of Arizona! Welcome to the new program year.

For those that may not know me, my name is Irene. I am happy to be promoting and helping you out this year to better understand the Scholarships program and what it has to offer.

A good portion of you have already started working the 2025-2026 programs and are waiting to fill out the new **PAR** to get credit for them. Please keep in mind that for the Outstanding Auxiliary Award this year, we are looking for what National requires us to report on to receive this.

From Sea to Shining Sea, serving our Veterans that keep us free. National President Lois Callahan's motto for this year. This is a great vision as we place a heavy focus on the Continuing Education Scholarship. National President Lois Callahan's special project for the year. We

are looking to help raise as much money as possible to increase the escrow of this fund to be able to pay the recipients more.

There may be lots of Veterans out there that would love to continue their education after serving this great country. Maybe even their family members that had to put their education on hold to be able to continue holding the homestead down with loved ones serving.

For those of you that were able to attend Department Convention, each chairman was tasked with choosing a song to put with their presentation. I chose "Ain't no stopping us now." I liked the theme of this song because it shows our steadfast determination to better ourselves. Because we Ain't stopping now, we're on the move. Dancing our way thru this year with our goals in the horizon.

Scholarships Ambassador Philip Reinpold has his own theme for the year. **Shine your light, others will be drawn by your brilliance.** We can take this motto and run with it, especially when it comes to our Department President's special project "Blankets for Brian".

Let us shine all year long! Let's get moving.

Veterans and Family Support Ray Williams

I am honored to serve as the Department Veterans and Family Support (VFS) Chair for the 2025 -2026 year. A special thank you to Becky Baldwin for the outstanding job she did serving this Chair for the past year.



Please take a few moments and imagine life after the service for the Veteran and their family. In a perfect world Trace Adkins's "Still a Soldier" embodies my image. Click <u>HERE</u> to see that video.

We do not live in a perfect world and Veterans, and their families need assistance. **WE** as members have obligated ourselves to do the great work of the VFW Auxiliary which includes supporting our Veterans and Families. We can't expect every member to know all VFS resources, but one of my goals is each member knows where to find assistance to locate those resources.

Let me give you 3 great resources to start:

- VFW AUX VFS This is a link to Nationals or us the QR code.
- Members, our greatest asset and resource
- The Department's MIT (Member Involvement Training) event this Aug 22-24 in Tempe. Click HERE for flyer.

Our National VFS Ambassador, Annie O'Connor's main focus will be:

- VFW-Based Veterans assistance programs
- Veteran's mental health awareness
- Veteran and Veteran Spouses Employment

Let's work together to ensure every Veteran and their family receives the support they deserve!



Youth JaNice Robertson

Wow!! What a great Convention we had this year.

Hi! I'm JaNice Robertson from Auxiliary 769 in Quartzsite. This is my 5th year as a program Chairman, and I am so excited about being the Youth Chairman this year. I look out amongst the sea of our youth and know that each one is as unique as the seashells on our coasts. Each one is different. The Youth of America are our future, and it is our responsibility to mentor them so they will carry on when we no longer can.

Our Youth program includes:

- Sponsoring and working with youth groups. Get with the 4H, Scout Groups, Jr. ROTCA, Sunday school groups, Home-school associations, and get them to help out at some of your functions. Remember many youth focused organizations require various types of community service to earn merits, and you can earn your rewards along with helping them.
- Patriotism through Literacy. This is our reading program teaching our kids about various times in American history. Foster and promote the love of reading. Volunteer to read to the kids, as in Veterans reading to Youth or Youth reading to Veterans. This can help them in their reading skills and help you if you are having a difficult time seeing the words as we get older.
- Illustrating America. This is drawing a patriotic picture, open to K-8 judging consists of 3 grade divisions K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Official forms, details and rules can be found on Malta.

There is a summer reading challenge being promoted by the Second Lady Usha Vance. It runs from June 1 through September 5, 2025. It is for students in grades K-8th who read 12 books this summer. Click here to get more information.

There are Citations and Awards we can give out to our youth as you know it is always nice to know you are appreciated. These all can be found on Malta or

our Auxiliary website <u>WWW.VFWAUXAZ.org</u>. Hand out **RAP** cards whenever you see a child doing something for our Veterans. Have them with you at all times.

Involve the Youth in all Auxiliary Programs. Have them assist you in sending cards to the VFW National Home, VA facilities or our troops on deployment. They can help teach computer skills to our Veterans and Auxiliary members. Just get them involved wherever you can. They Are Our Future!

Remember to use the hashtag #AZ2526Youth. Always get permission to use youth photos.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary in Arizona | 326 E. Burrows St. | Tucson, AZ 85704 US

<u>Unsubscribe</u> | <u>Update Profile</u> | <u>Constant Contact Data Notice</u>



Try email marketing for free today!