

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am inspired every day by the strength, resilience, and compassion that define our Auxiliary. We are a family that stands beside and supports our Veterans, our members, and our communities. Our service does not end when a Veteran's uniform comes off—it continues for a lifetime. This is an obligation we accept as members: to ensure that no Veteran or family member ever feels alone on their journey through life.

At some point, many of us may find ourselves facing the path of becoming a caregiver. This is one of the greatest honors we can bestow upon a spouse, child or loved one; however, it can also be one of the most challenging and stressful responsibilities we will ever undertake. Preparation is key. I encourage you to get a head start by learning what it truly means to be a caregiver. Two excellent resources—[*Ten Tips for Family Caregivers*](#) and [*VA Caregivers*](#)—can be found on www.vfwauxaz.org under **Programs → Veterans and Family Support**. I also would like to note, to say “*I am not capable of being a caregiver*” is acceptable and encouraged if you feel you could not do this. This could be detrimental to you and the person needing care.

Families are the backbone of our Veteran community and supporting them is central to our mission. Spouses, children, parents, and caregivers make sacrifices that often go unrecognized, yet their strength sustains our Veterans and members through every season of their life. By hosting family-focused events, supporting youth programs, and offering both financial and emotional assistance, we work to ensure families feel seen, supported, and valued. In doing so, we strengthen our entire VFW & Auxiliary family.

Auxiliary members, I challenge each of you to turn your compassion into action. Whether it is welcoming home deployed service members, providing comfort during times of illness or loss, connecting Veterans with critical resources, or simply listening and spending time with a member—every act matters. Each gesture, no matter how small, is a powerful reminder that gratitude is best expressed through meaningful service and will never be forgotten.

Loyalty

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ray Williams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ray Williams
VFW Chair

As the Arizona VFW Auxiliary Veterans and Family Support Chairman, I am inspired every day by the strength, resilience, and compassion that define our veteran community and the families who stand beside them. Service does not end when a uniform comes off—it continues in the lives of those who have given so much for our freedom. It is our honor and our responsibility to ensure that no veteran or family member ever feels alone on that journey.

Veterans and their families carry stories of courage, sacrifice, and perseverance. Some are visible, while others remain quietly held. The transition from military service to civilian life can bring uncertainty, physical and emotional challenges, and new responsibilities for families. At the Arizona VFW Auxiliary, we believe that hope grows when support is consistent, personal, and heartfelt.

Across our great state, Auxiliary members are turning compassion into action. Whether it is welcoming home deployed service members, providing comfort during times of illness or loss, or connecting veterans with critical resources, our members are answering the call to serve once again. Each gesture—no matter how small—becomes a reminder that gratitude is best expressed through meaningful service.

Families are the backbone of our veteran community, and supporting them is central to our mission. Spouses, children, and caregivers make sacrifices that often go unrecognized, yet their strength sustains our veterans through every season of life. By hosting family-focused events, supporting youth programs, and offering financial and emotional assistance, we work to ensure families feel seen, supported, and valued. When families are strong, veterans are stronger.