

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

Visit our Website



Some of you have asked to be able to read all the articles in their entirety in one place. On our webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under the Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter you can now find each month's articles all together. Click [here](#) to go directly there.

Thank you to everyone who came to MIT.

I hope you found it informative and interesting. If you did not get a chance to complete the survey, please do so now. Click on [MIT Feedback](#) to begin the survey.



Americanism
Christina Maiville



Happy August Arizona VFW Auxiliaries!

I hope everyone had a safe and fun 4th of July. Many of us are now ramping up for the new school year and many Auxiliaries also start getting very busy. Unfortunately the weather in Arizona has also decided it is a great time for the monsoon storms to revisit us.

At least we had the MIT training and upcoming Fall conference to help distract us through the rough weather! With the National Convention completed for the 2025/2026 program year the new National Program book is now available on Malta. This is a valuable resource for the 2026/2027 program year that is now in full swing.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#).

Buddy Poppy Raelene Lam

Are you ready to spread some respect, love and honor by using the remembrance VFW “Buddy” Poppy?

In 1922 Madame Anna Guerin of France connected with the VFW ahead of Memorial Day to coordinate the first nationwide poppy distribution. This first event created a huge demand for the beautiful three-part flower for the 1923 Poppy event. The struggle of acquiring enough Poppies to fill the desire of the American people lead to the VFW electing to purchase the supplies from a New York City artificial flower shop and have them assembled by needy and disabled veterans.



Conversations by the veterans who assembled the three-part poppy inspired the name “Buddy Poppy”. The veterans would often refer to their fellow soldiers they served as Buddy while telling stories of their service. February 1924 the US Patent Office registered the Buddy Poppy.

This history demonstrates the continued practice of the VFW & VFW Auxiliary to evolve to fit the needs of our veterans, their families, our membership and community.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Historian/Media Paulette Marshall

We survive and thrive, coming off the excitement of National Convention, it is always so busy

coming back to your home post and catching up on everything you have missed.

Ten days in Reno were fantastic in meeting all of the line officers at the National level and getting a chance to speak one on one with my National Ambassador Teresa Price and getting to see her passion for the preservation of each Auxiliaries' History.

It is important not to only document our current activities, but to be eligible for the National Award, it is time to remember those who came before us. " Do you know who your first Auxiliary President was, the second, the third and so forth?

To read the rest of the article click [here](#)

Hospital Pat Stinson

What a great summer we are having here in Arizona. It's been hot, but so are our auxiliaries. We had a wonderful kick off to the New Year back in June with everyone looking forward to the New Year.



I presented the Hospital program and our National Ambassador's focal points with examples of how our auxiliaries can include them in their programs. I will also be asking for invitations to our district meetings to further my involvement and gather some great ideas to share with all of our auxiliaries.

One of the focal points is to celebrate some "different" holidays. I found a website that gives a nice list of these holidays at www.holidayscalendar.com where you can look these days up by month. Here are some examples:

8-21-2026	Senior Citizens day
9-14-2026	National coloring day
10-10-2026	National Chess day

To read the rest of the article click [here](#)

VFW Voices of Service *Stories in Action*

Honor the Contract. Hear the Reality.

Our nation made a promise to those who served. Help lawmakers hear directly from you about what keeping that promise really means.



Scan to share your story.



Legislative Connie Hargreaves

TEAM ADVOCACY SCORES FIELD GOAL!
BUT WE WON'T SETTLE FOR THAT!

The months of June and July saw a lot of calls, letter writing and responding to action alerts with our National Legislative Team and Department

Officers and members hitting Washington in person, by mail and email and by phone to fight for our Veterans.

The Taking Care of Veterans Act (H.R. 9237/S.4744) although sounding good for Veterans it was a massive omnibus package that had over 60 bipartisan veteran bills in one measure. Sounded great, but it was full of harmful aspects and not enough safeguards and protections for our Veterans now and in the future.

Veterans should not have to accept paying or losing our own benefits to finally help those who should of already received help or for our caretakers to get the raise they haven't received in decades.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

Membership Bambi Johnson

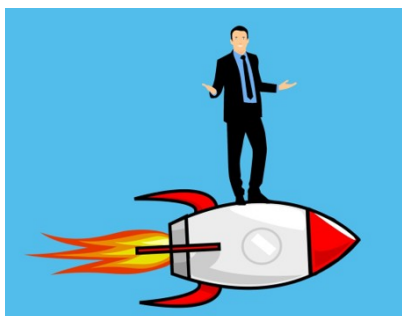
Membership is the heart of our organization, and we all have a part to play in its success.

Every member is a recruiter when they share our mission with potential new members and recruiting even one new member can start a chain of other new members as they share their experience with other potential new members. Although we know that there are only a percentage of members that regularly attend monthly meetings, imagine if each attendee were to recruiter just one new member and bring them to the next meeting!



Using the Just One Pledge Card found in Malta in Membership Resources is an excellent way to set small membership goals in your auxiliary. Start by asking each member at your next meeting to take and application to carry and fill out and leave a Just One Pledge card to be with your secretary.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Scholarship Alison McHose

Like a rocket - we need to get started promoting our scholarship programs this month. August is back to school month (for most of Arizona) and your auxiliary needs to start reaching out to school guidance counselors, or teachers who teach history or civics. Know what you're asking in a clear and concise manner. Call or email schools and know what you are seeking.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

Veterans and Family Support



National had their program kickoff and it was very interesting. Besides the audio hiccups, it was informative. Make sure you read your books! Just ask any line officer or chairman that was there.

Last month I said I would highlight each touch point that will help you towards possibly getting a National Citation. This year there are two possible citations.

Will you go for just one or both!

The VFS National Citation #1 this year: Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding promotion of VFW resources for veterans, service members and their families.

The VFS National Citation #2 this year: Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event promoting resources, including those for PTS, and assistance for veterans and their families (resource fairs, mental health clinics, etc.)

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



VFW National Home Peggy Welch

I would like to introduce Chester. He is helping me this year with my duties, and he has been busy reading the National Home Playbook. Look for Facebook posts on the VFW Auxiliary Department of Arizona page to learn more about the Home to help you develop your game plan. We have begun our Trivia questions and, if you are the first with the correct answer, you will receive a certificate. It is a fun way to learn more about the National Home!

This year we want to creatively educate about what and where the National Home is, and who is eligible for the services provided. This is right from the Playbook developed by VFW National Home Ambassador, Mary Anne Kreutz.

In July I was able to visit the National Home campus, and it was amazing.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

Youth Crystal McCarthy

Every successful football team knows that championships aren't won on game day. They're built during training camp, in practices, and through countless

hours spent mastering the fundamentals.
The same is true for our youth.

As students head back to school, we have a unique opportunity to help build a strong foundation for the next generation. That's why Play #1 in our Youth Activities Playbook is all about **Patriotism Through Literacy**.



Reading opens doors. It introduces young people to history, teaches critical thinking, sparks imagination, and helps them discover the stories of those who came before them. Through books, children can learn about our nation's founding, the sacrifices of our veterans, and the values that make our communities strong.

The good news? Building that foundation doesn't require a huge budget or a major event.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

If you have questions or need help with the website or the newsletter, contact Becky Baldwin at beckybaldwin10@gmail.com or Kim Harney at kharney02@gmail.com

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