

JULY 2021

# VFW Auxiliary

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

---

**FIGHTING  
FOOD  
INSECURITY  
WITH STARS,  
STRIPES AND  
SUPPORT**

---

**CONTINUING  
EDUCATION  
WINNERS**

---

**2021-2022  
NATIONAL  
PROGRAMS**

---

**INCOMING  
DEPARTMENT  
PRESIDENTS**



## FIND THE 2021-2022 *National Program Book*

online at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org). This resource is filled with useful information about all of our National Programs, their Ambassadors and awards. It can also be a great recruiting tool. To read about Programs news, see page 13.

**Note:** *You do not have to print the entire book – you can choose to print ONLY the pages you need rather than the entire document.*



# DATES & DEADLINES

## July

JULY 01 Start of the 2021-2022 Program Year

JULY 04 Independence Day

JULY 31 • Circle of Excellence – All installation reports received  
• National Convention begins

## August

AUGUST 7 National Purple Heart Day

AUGUST 31 Circle of Excellence – All Auxiliaries must be bonded

*For more information, see the **2021-2022 National Program Book**.*

# TABLE OF Contents

JULY 2021 • VOLUME 83 • ISSUE 1

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



## Features

### 9 Stars, Stripes and Support

*National President Sandi Onstwedder's special project raised more than \$100,000 to help service members and families who face food insecurity.*



### 11 Washington Auxiliary donates to veterans and community members in need

*A chance meeting leads to more than 22,000 pounds of food to distribute.*



### 12 Continuing Education Scholarship Winners

*Read these students' inspiring stories about their educational journeys.*



### 13 National Programs News

*Read about everything that is different this year, including a new Auxiliary Community Outreach emphasis, combined Programs and much more.*



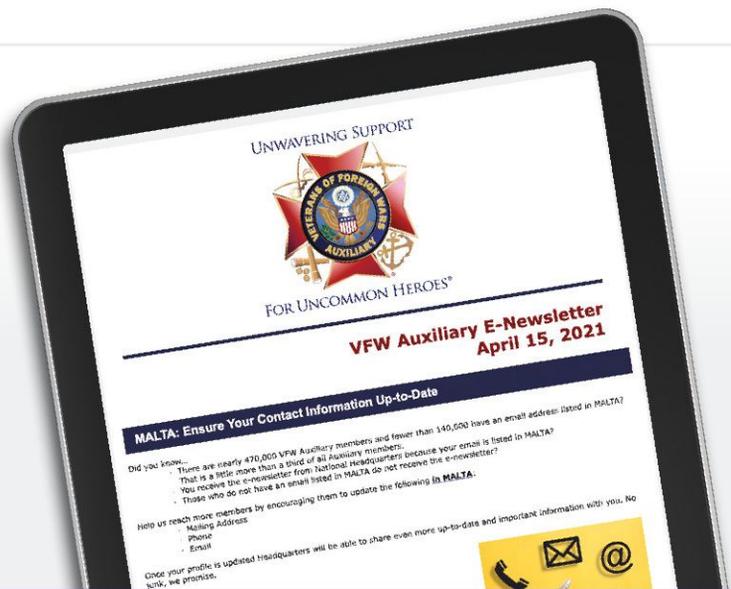
## In Every Issue

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 3 VFW Auxiliary Online | 7 My Veteran   |
| 4 President's Message  | 20 HQ Memo     |
| 5 Editor's Letter      | 21 Our History |
| 6 Reader's Voice       |                |



## About the Cover

*August 7 is National Purple Heart Day.*



# Get HQ's E-Newsletter

Update contact information in your MALTA profile to include your email address so you can always be the first to know about important and timely news, updates and more.

All members with a valid email address in MALTA will receive the VFW Auxiliary's biweekly E-Newsletter from National Headquarters.

It is a win-win. This outlet keeps members informed (especially during uncertain times) and the lines of communication open.

The E-Newsletter is a free resource available to all members. Add your email to your MALTA profile today!

Did you know...the Auxiliary has nearly 470,000 members, yet fewer than 140,000 of those have an email address listed in MALTA?

We encourage all members to update their profiles to include not only an email address, but also a valid phone number and mailing address.

**Note:** Once you begin receiving HQ's E-Newsletter, please do not forward it to other members because if those who are forwarded the E-Newsletter unsubscribe, the original subscriber also gets unsubscribed.

get  
SOCIAL

 **Instagram**  
@vfwauxiliaryhq

 **Facebook**  
vfwauxiliary

 **Pinterest**  
vfwauxiliary

 **LinkedIn**  
VFW Auxiliary

 **YouTube VFW Auxiliary**  
National Organization



*It has been my  
privilege to be  
your National  
President  
during this  
unprecedented  
year of service.*

***Dear Members—***

Thank you, thank you, thank you! All through our 2020-2021 Program Year, members have proven that the VFW Auxiliary can survive some of the toughest situations most of us have never experienced. Together we made a concerted effort and continued to ***Honor Our Mission to Serve Veterans.***

It has been my privilege to be your National President during this unprecedented year of service. I was given the opportunity to travel across our great country. I encountered many different Auxiliary scenarios, yet when it came right down to it, we all had the same intentions. We stepped up to meet the needs of our servicemen and servicewomen while still standing by to assist our veterans who experienced isolation while adjusting to their civilian lifestyle.

I am so very proud of the many Auxiliaries, members and veterans who donated to the Stars, Stripes and Support special project. Working along with the VFW Foundation and the VFW Unmet Needs program, we were able to make a huge difference for many military families experiencing hunger and food insecurity. I personally wish to thank all of you for making it the successful project it became!

Now is the time to kick it into gear and put our plans into action for the 2021-2022 Program Year under the leadership of incoming Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary National President Jean Hamil. She has strategically chosen her Ambassadors, and together they have put Programs in place. I am excited to jumpstart a new year for our members and organization.

In closing, please continue to recruit, rejoin and retain members. Now is not the time to sit back and blame the pandemic. We are smart, creative and proactive volunteers. Let's come back from this pandemic stronger than ever before in the history of the VFW Auxiliary.

***Loyally yours,***

*Sandi Onstwedder*

**SANDI ONSTWEDDER**

*National President*



*What never changed was our dedication to our organization and mission.*

### **Dear Members—**

As we look ahead to our next National Convention in a few short weeks, and the beginning of another promising new Program Year, I can't help but think about just how far we've come, and how much we've overcome.

I know that as weeks of the pandemic turned into months, and then more than a year, many of us were thinking, "When is this going to end?"

"When will everything get back to normal?"

While we're not back to normal (or whatever that looks like now) yet, we are making progress.

Although we're hearing news of virus variants that could change our circumstances in the months to come, many of us have gotten our COVID-19 vaccines and as of late April, could begin to cautiously emerge from isolation to be among fellow vaccinated members.

We've been able to safely meet in person in smaller groups to conduct business and connect with those we serve.

2020 and 2021 were full of uncertainty about the health and safety of our veterans and other loved ones, and so many question marks around our plans.

But what never changed was our dedication to our organization and mission. We have so much to be proud of accomplishing and so much more to look forward to achieving.

In this issue you'll see just how much you've helped military families in need by supporting National President Sandi Onstwedder's special project, Stars, Stripes and Support, on page 9. On page 11, you'll read about an Auxiliary that was able to donate more than 11 tons (yes, tons) of food to veterans and community members in need all because one man had to work from his home office in the time of COVID-19. You'll meet our latest Continuing Education Scholarship winners on page 12. And we can get excited about everything new in National Programs on page 13 and welcome our 2021-2022 Department Presidents on page 15.

Let's never lose sight of our mission and goals, and never forget why we are the VFW Auxiliary. We will always be there for our veterans, service members and their families and communities. Remember, if we can navigate a worldwide health crisis and provide Unwavering Support to our Uncommon Heroes, we can do anything.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda'.

**Amanda Cook**  
Editor-In-Chief

## VOLUME 83 NUMBER 1

### **Editor-In-Chief**

Amanda Cook

### **Contributing Writer**

Maria Royer

### **VFW Auxiliary Magazine**

is published six times per year – January, March, May, July, September and November – by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, 406 West 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

### **Editorial Office**

Address all communications for publication to The Editor, VFW Auxiliary Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111, (816) 561-8655, Fax (816) 931-4753.

Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs must be accompanied by return postage and no responsibility is assumed for safe handling. Poetry submissions are not accepted. Or email [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org).

### **Graphic Design**

Jaclynn Braden Design  
[jb@jaclynnbraden.com](mailto:jb@jaclynnbraden.com)

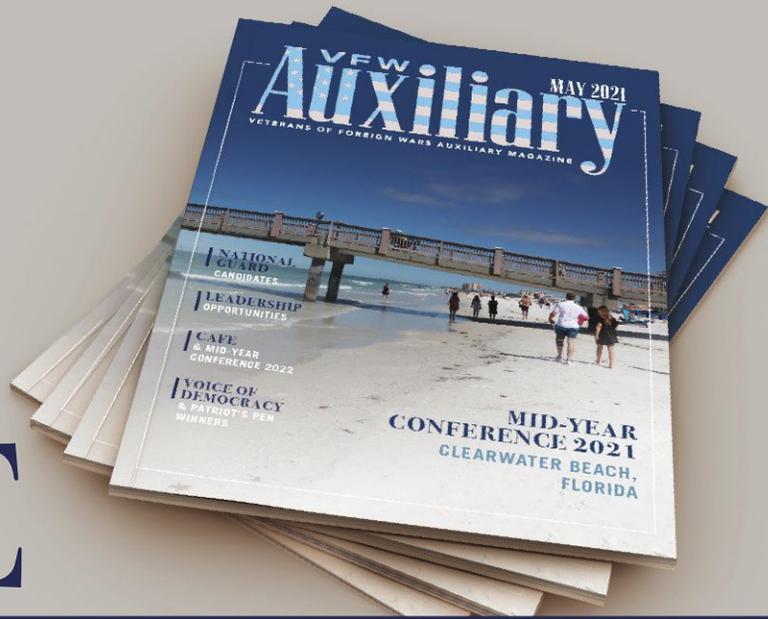
### **Change of Address**

Forward address changes to: Circulation Department, VFW Auxiliary Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111. Be sure to furnish your old address and your Auxiliary number when requesting address change. To ensure accuracy, please clip and enclose your present address as printed on a recent copy of VFW Auxiliary Magazine. Or email [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org).

### **Website**

[www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

# 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](mailto: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.

## EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL AND WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE YOURS. SEND IN YOUR SUBMISSIONS FOR UPCOMING ISSUES OF *VFW AUXILIARY MAGAZINE!*

- We want photographs that capture our past – community activities, holiday celebrations, Conventions, volunteer projects and any other interesting candid moments you've caught on film for the "Our History" feature. Email pictures 1MB or larger with caption information.
- Do you know of an outstanding member? Nominate them for our "Member Spotlight" feature.
- Tell us about the veteran whose eligibility allowed you to join the VFW Auxiliary. They could be showcased in our "My Veteran" feature.

### SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

[info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) or  
Amanda Cook, editor-in-chief—[acook@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:acook@vfwauxiliary.org)

### By mail:

VFW Auxiliary Magazine  
406 W. 34th St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

We all belong to this great organization because we are passionate about serving veterans, service members, their families and communities. We welcome and value your comments, suggestions and questions.

The editors of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* want to know what you think about features and articles you see in the magazine. **Please email your letters to the Editor to [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org), marked "Letter to the Editor,"** or send them to VFW Auxiliary Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City, MO, 64111.



# MY VETERAN

JOSEPH E. MITCHELL

**L**uella Wright, a Life Member of Auxiliary 2738 in Payette, Idaho, joined under the eligibility of her father, World War II veteran Frank J. Landerway. She is equally proud of her uncle, Joseph E. Mitchell, and his accomplishments during his years of service. His long military career coincided with another unprecedented time; this one specific to our military history.

Mitchell, the youngest of 12 siblings, was born into a farming family in Preston Hollow, N.Y., and enlisted in the Army in 1950. Since he was a mere 17 years old at the time, his father was required to give parental consent.

Mitchell enlisted at a time of transition in the U.S. military following the signing of Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948 by President Harry S Truman. The order declared that the armed services offer “equal treatment and opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion or national origin.”

The next year, Mitchell was transferred to an integrated engineer/mechanics unit at Fort Jackson, S.C. Once training was completed, he was deployed to Korea where his unit constructed Air Force fields.

Following the Korean War, Mitchell attended Airborne school and became a paratrooper.

He served with the 8th Infantry, the 173rd Airborne, completed a mission to Thailand with the Special Forces and spent two and a half years in Vietnam. Throughout his military career, Mitchell earned myriad medals, honors and recognitions including a Bronze Star and subsequently two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, National Defense Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Commendation Medal. After 27 years of service, Mitchell retired with the rank of U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3. He is currently enjoying his retirement in Charlotte, N.C. ★ MR






# MALTA

## MANAGE YOUR COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

### DID YOU KNOW, YOU CAN CHOOSE EXACTLY HOW YOU RECEIVE YOUR NATIONAL MAGAZINE?

We have two versions – paper and the E-Magazine. Log in to your MALTA account to choose.

With the E-version, you can receive *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* online, delivered directly to your email inbox six times per year.

If you prefer to read your Auxiliary news and stories on your tablet, smart phone or computer, this is a great choice. This is also a good option for multiple members who live in same household and do not want to receive duplicate paper copies.

For those interested in receiving the E-Magazine instead of the paper version, log on to your MALTA profile and click the box next to “E-Magazine.”

If you would prefer to continue receiving the printed/paper version, you don't need

to do anything. You will still receive your printed edition via mail.

We currently have more than 7,000 E-Magazine subscribers. When you select E-Magazine, allow one magazine cycle to stop receiving the paper version, as our printing company pulls addresses from MALTA a couple of months ahead of each issue's publication date.

Also in your MALTA account, be sure this information is part of your profile: birthdate, valid email address, street address and phone number. We use this to keep in touch about important organizational news and updates. Members may log in to their MALTA account to update their address in case of a move, too.



# STARS, STRIPES AND SUPPORT FIGHTS FOOD INSECURITY

WITH MORE THAN \$100,000 IN DONATIONS

Veteran Tonya Palmer of Mechanicsville, Va., was getting used to not having enough food to eat. On the day she applied for the VFW's Unmet Needs grant, she was down to a few slices of cheese.

Palmer joined the Army at 33 years old, just after the September 11, 2001 attacks. After completing basic training in Ft. Jackson, S.C., she moved on to Georgia to learn satellite maintenance and control. Soon after, Palmer was injured during training. She suffered physically and emotionally after breaking both her legs, damaging her lower back and developing Post Traumatic Stress (PTS).

"I have suppressed much of that time. But now, 15 years later, I still suffer every day. It affects every aspect of my life. I joined to protect my

family and country, and when I left the military, I was a private first class," Palmer said.

Even with her 100% rating for service-connected disability, the loss of pay after being laid off in 2016 made it impossible for Palmer and her fiancé to keep up their finances.

Palmer couldn't buy groceries. The food banks could get her by but did not provide any fresh food. She searched online for services that could possibly help her and found the VFW Unmet Needs program.

"The application process was very simple. I filled out the information requested by the VFW and a few days later I got a call telling me what they could give me. They asked if I would be interested, and I said yes.



Stories similar to this inspired VFW Auxiliary National President Sandi Onstwedder's special project, Stars, Stripes and Support, that focuses on helping service members fight food insecurity. By May, Auxiliary members had donated a grand total of more than \$100,000 to this project.

One in eight Americans faces food insecurity – a state of being without reliable access to affordable, nutritious food – and many of our service members and veterans find this an all-too familiar burden. Research shows that 25% of our nation's total active-duty and reserve personnel seek aid from food pantries. The high cost of living in many areas of our country requires that members of our nation's military apply for food stamps or other financial assistance.

Stars, Stripes and Support funds will flow through the VFW's Unmet Needs program.

"To the many members who have donated, I cannot thank you enough for helping us help those who have selflessly stepped up to serve our country," Onstwedder said. "This support has been incredibly important. Know that your generosity has made a huge difference for service members and their families during this time when many are faced with additional stressors of unemployment, illness and medical expenses."

The VFW's Unmet Needs program, created in 2004, has awarded millions of dollars in individual grants of up to \$1,500 to help veterans and service members make ends meet. Service members, veterans and their family members can submit the Unmet Needs application online. To learn more about the program, including how to qualify, visit [www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds](http://www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds).

To donate to the Unmet Needs fund, visit <https://heroes.vfw.org> and then click on the donate button at the top of the page.

★ VFW/AC

A few weeks later a gift card for Walmart came in the mail," she explained.

Finally, Palmer and her fiancé could afford to buy meat and vegetables. The help from the VFW grant was a catalyst that got them going in the right direction.

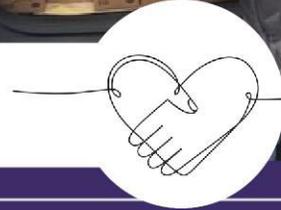
"We got fresh food and then my fiancé's hours picked up again. Thanks to the grant from the VFW, I was able to work out the financial situation I was in and am now on my way to being able to support myself. We are still renting, but we're in a house and moving forward in our lives.

"This has shown me that I am not alone and that our country recognizes the importance of my service," Palmer concluded.

# CHANCE MEETING



*Leads to More than 20,000 Pounds of Food for Veterans and Community Members*



Not everything is what it seems. As Deb Haddad of Auxiliary 1585 in Bellingham, Wash., can tell you, sometimes it is better than you could ever imagine.

Haddad noticed something strange going on in her neighborhood about a year ago. One of her neighbors routinely received a huge shipment of boxes, and then promptly disposed of them in a dumpster. It was also unusual because Haddad's condo association – she's on its board of directors – typically does not allow dumpsters to be brought in.

So she struck up a conversation with the mystery man, and learned more about her new acquaintance, Joseph Chesanow, whose company, Co-Op Trade America Inc., oversees and consults on frozen food manufacturing from field to export.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chesanow accepted frozen fruit and vegetables at his home office rather than conducting inspections as he typically would on-site at factories. The samples came from 40-foot shipping containers that were bound for Japan. They are inspected for superficial issues like packaging and proper expiration code indication.

"I was having a bit of issues (wanting to give away) all of these frozen foods but had no choice but to throw a lot of it away," he said.

"Luckily, Debbie saw me and asked about what I was doing. She and her vast network of friends have absolutely been a crucial part in this, as she has spent a tremendous amount of effort finding places to accept, store and distribute these thousands of pounds of frozen fruit and veggies to people in need."

Haddad immediately saw the potential to get this perfectly good, unneeded excess food to the food

insecure in her community, and she and her Auxiliary President, Cindy Mellema, sprang into action.

"This project gives our Auxiliary a great opportunity to reach out and connect with our veterans who are shut in and those who are underserved in our communities and we're establishing longstanding relationships with the Salvation Army, food banks and numerous churches," she said. "We also keep some of the frozen food at (the Post) so it is available if needed."

To date, Auxiliary 1585 has donated more than 22,000 pounds of food.

"It definitely feels great," Chesanow said, "to be able to provide safe and healthy frozen food that I was able to observe from harvest to processing. Especially when health issues among those in need and food waste problems are getting worse and worse. I was the youngest of three brothers who all played sports and know how quickly food bills can add up."

Marie Valum, who coordinates weekly food, household and clothing donations at St. Peter Mission Church, said receiving frozen food donations from the VFW and Auxiliary have been an added bonus for the East Whatcom County community.

"They really appreciate the healthy food choices, and the quality is great as well. Thank you so much!"

In addition to the steady and plentiful food donations, Auxiliary 1585 has also supported National President Sandi Onstwedder's special project, Stars, Stripes and Support, that fights food insecurity via the VFW's Unmet Needs program.

Even more good news amid a year of bleak updates—Chesanow predicts he'll be able to continue donating food for a few more years. 🌟 AC

# \$1,000 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## BIG TEN CONFERENCE

### SOPHIA PISEGNA

Auxiliary 1662  
Amherst, Ohio

Sophia Piseгна of Amherst, Ohio, is studying nursing at Lorain County Community College, a course of study she hopes will one day lead to work in an emergency/trauma center and later, becoming a flight nurse for Life Flights.

For Piseгна, continuing to serve her community by completing her bachelor of science degree in nursing is a natural progression. She grew up in a family of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members, joined the Auxiliary as soon as she could at age 16, taking on leadership roles, and has dedicated much of her life to giving back to veterans and her community whether she spent the holidays at veterans' homes or collected school supplies for children.

The Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship will help her begin her professional life less in debt.

"I have spent the last several months searching for numerous scholarships," she said. "My sister and I are only 15 months apart...My father's pension and mother's two jobs can't continue to pay for both of our educations. I have become independent of my parents, but I have found out those things don't always get you financial aid."



## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

### URIAH WINDLEY

Department of Georgia  
Douglasville, Georgia

Uriah Windley is working toward realizing his dream of becoming a registered nurse at Georgia Baptist College, Mercer University.

"I have always felt it was my duty to care for those in my community who need medical help," he said. "With this scholarship, it would allow me to continue to purchase required books and supplies needed to complete my very rigorous program."

Windley's nursing program requires its students to agree not to work during their studies.

"I dream of having RN at the end of my job title," he said. "I imagine myself giving 100% (to all) of my patients no matter the race, culture lifestyle, origin or nationality. With this scholarship, it helps me get a few steps closer."



## EASTERN CONFERENCE

### VERONICA MCLAUGHLIN

Auxiliary 1424  
Marienville, Pennsylvania

Veronica McLaughlin always wanted to grow up to be just like her dad, a compassionate and committed person who is an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran and also worked as a nurse outside of his military service.

Like her father, McLaughlin is also on track to become a nurse. The Titusville resident is enrolled at Robert Morris University, and said the Continuing Education Scholarship will help her continue her studies to become a licensed practical nurse while also working and paying off bills. She wants to go on to earn a bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

"I obtained my National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians license in high school through an accelerated program," she said. "...This scholarship will be very beneficial for me...I want to finish my practical nursing degree this year and continue to keep chasing my dreams to be able to obtain my nursing license and be able to serve my community."



## WESTERN CONFERENCE

### JORDAN GREWELL

Auxiliary 5748  
Joliet, Montana

Jordan Grewell attends Montana State University where she is studying animal science, and plans to go on to attend veterinary school and one day, own her own veterinary practice.

"I love working with animals and as a veterinarian, I would be able to help my community in a big way since there are so many people who raise livestock and need a veterinarian," she said. "I am also committed to achieving these goals so I can pay off all of my debt to my parents, the government and all those who have helped me."

The Continuing Education Scholarship, she said, will help reduce out-of-pocket expenses for herself and her parents. She is one of three dependents in her family who is relying on loans and financial aid to help fund her education.

# NATIONAL PROGRAMS



We're always growing and changing. Our National Programs are no different. Here's a look at what's new in this year's (2021-2022) *National Program Book*:

## VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach

Now in its second year, this Program is about members volunteering with other organizations in their communities.

New this year is an emphasis on helping first responders, as this fall marks a somber anniversary; two decades since 9/11.

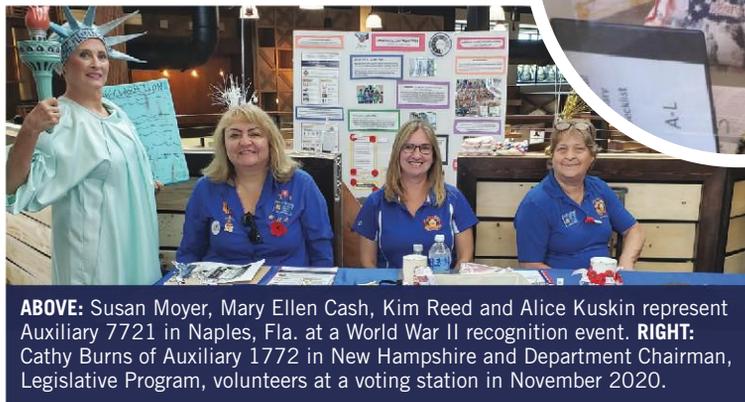
Some ideas for supporting first responders are:

- Volunteering at a safety fair.
- Partnering to host a local First Responders Appreciation Day or Week. (Find good dates and ideas on page 12 of the *2021-2022 National Program Book*.)

“Let’s step up, support and volunteer for those who keep us safe in our communities,” said Auxiliary Community Outreach National Ambassador Mary Ryser.

### WHAT DOES AND DOES NOT QUALIFY:

Auxiliary Community Outreach is a donation of time. It is not in-kind or monetary donations.



**ABOVE:** Susan Moyer, Mary Ellen Cash, Kim Reed and Alice Kuskin represent Auxiliary 7721 in Naples, Fla. at a World War II recognition event. **RIGHT:** Cathy Burns of Auxiliary 1772 in New Hampshire and Department Chairman, Legislative Program, volunteers at a voting station in November 2020.



The Program goal is for members to volunteer with another organization

and be visible in the community doing the kind of work the Auxiliary has participated in for years. This kind of involvement fosters awareness about the Auxiliary in our communities and builds good will.

To ensure we're recognized as Auxiliary members, it is important that we wear some form of Auxiliary apparel like a shirt, hat or name badge, and support this by:

- A vote on your Auxiliary floor to volunteer outside of your Auxiliary and/or Post.

Note that anything you do specifically for Auxiliary Community Outreach cannot be counted under another Program.

# WS



## SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT COUNTS:

- Helping youth by tutoring students.
- Helping senior citizens by reading to residents at a senior living community.
- Helping animals or the environment by planting trees for Arbor Day.
- Helping those in need by organizing and sorting donations at a homeless shelter.

## EXAMPLES OF WHAT DOES NOT COUNT:

- Donating books to a local elementary school.
- Donating money to provide meals to senior citizens.
- Repairs or maintenance to the Post Home.
- Collecting socks for homeless veterans in a bin at the Post Home. (This could count under Veterans & Family Support.)

Auxiliary members are responsible for many good deeds that help communities. If you are unsure of whether your idea for Auxiliary Community Outreach will count toward this Program, contact Mary Ryser at [vfw3699@live.com](mailto:vfw3699@live.com).

## Americanism Program

While our organization has been promoting patriotism for more than a century, we rely on social media to continue to spread the word. "Whether capturing patriotic unity or Auxiliary traditions in action, tag the activity and/or event using the hashtag #AuxiliaryPatriotism," said National American Ambassador Francesca "Frankie" Bill. See the *2021-2022 National Program Book* for ideas.

## "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Program

Many of us count on Amazon.com for one-stop and safe shopping, especially now. You can put your spending dollars to work, for free! Consider supporting the National Home with AmazonSmile, which helps raise funds for nonprofits. Shop and give simultaneously. Select the National Home as your AmazonSmile charity of choice and AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases. Learn more at [vfnationalhome.org/other](http://vfnationalhome.org/other). Donna Ralston is this Program's 2021-2022 National Ambassador.

## Chief of Staff & Mentoring for Leadership Programs

have merged into one Program. Two roles—one goal: promoting a legacy of healthy Auxiliaries that are supported by members who are ready and willing to take over leadership roles.

"The more we reflected, the more we realized that these two Programs are intertwined; it makes sense to bring them together," said 2021-2022 National Chief of Staff & Mentoring for Leadership Ambassador Leona McDermott.

Find more about these and all other National Programs online at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources).



# 2021-2022 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



**ALABAMA**  
**Kay Gedling**  
Auxiliary 6226  
*Arab*



**COLORADO**  
**Lucille Chavez**  
Auxiliary 4171  
*Golden*



**HAWAII**  
**Sheryl Anzai**  
Auxiliary 10276  
*Honolulu*



**ALASKA**  
**Sherie Crosby**  
Auxiliary 9785  
*Eagle River*



**CONNECTICUT**  
**Kim McCarroll**  
Auxiliary 149  
*Danbury*



**IDAHO**  
**Angel Adams**  
Auxiliary 7137  
*Arco*



**ARIZONA**  
**Janae Kemery**  
Auxiliary 12043  
*Maricopa*



**DELAWARE**  
**Roger Leslie**  
Auxiliary 3420  
*Newark*



**ILLINOIS**  
**Rhonda Borkgren**  
Auxiliary 5083  
*Geneseo*



**ARKANSAS**  
**Kimberly Davis**  
Auxiliary 1991  
*Jonesboro*



**FLORIDA**  
**Tela Harbold**  
Auxiliary 9272  
*Seminole*



**INDIANA**  
**Linda Misuraca**  
Auxiliary 1114  
*Evansville*



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Kathy Smith**  
Auxiliary 904  
*Rocklin*



**GEORGIA**  
**Bren Bragg**  
Auxiliary 10558  
*Cataula*



**IOWA**  
**Jeanette Henry**  
Auxiliary 8884  
*Vinton*

# DIRECTS



**KANSAS**  
**Tessa Butcher**  
Auxiliary 2715  
*McPherson*



**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Bette Jane Mire**  
Auxiliary 2158  
*Winchendon*



**MONTANA**  
**Sandra Sullivan**  
Auxiliary 5514  
*Troy*



**KENTUCKY**  
**Martha Lain**  
Auxiliary 6182  
*Louisville*



**MICHIGAN**  
**Stephanie Krueger**  
Auxiliary 4422  
*Taylor*



**NEBRASKA**  
**Sharon Thorne**  
Auxiliary 5547  
*Syracuse*



**LOUISIANA**  
**Ramel Fields**  
Auxiliary 7287  
*Coushatta*



**MINNESOTA**  
**Jamie Cassavant**  
Auxiliary 1902  
*Crookston*



**NEVADA**  
**Pat Meade**  
Auxiliary 8336  
*Moapa Valley*



**MAINE**  
**Patsy Littlefield**  
Auxiliary 6131  
*Northport*



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Jean Brooks**  
Auxiliary 7531  
*Hernando*



**NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Rita McCabe**  
Auxiliary 10722  
*Pelham*



**MARYLAND**  
**Cheri Brown**  
Auxiliary 7687  
*Chesapeake City*



**MISSOURI**  
**Janet Barlar**  
Auxiliary 4238  
*Dixon*



**NEW JERSEY**  
**Deborah McLendon**  
Auxiliary 3525  
*Hamilton Township*



# 2021-2022 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS



**NEW MEXICO**  
**Betty Decker**  
Auxiliary 614  
*Aztec*



**OREGON**  
**Valorie Wrinkle**  
Auxiliary 4108  
*Redmond*



**TEXAS**  
**Karen Kaylor**  
Auxiliary 4008  
*Belton*



**UTAH**  
**Jeannie Luddington**  
Auxiliary 10900  
*Moab*



**VERMONT**  
**Diana Gosselin**  
Auxiliary 758  
*Saint Albans*



**NEW YORK**  
**Ruth Huber**  
Auxiliary 8734  
*Little Valley*



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Pam Sopher**  
Auxiliary 5958  
*Titusville*



**VIRGINIA**  
**Carol Vangi**  
Auxiliary 3160  
*Norfolk*



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Sandra Johnson-Leu**  
Auxiliary 7383  
*Cary*



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**Shauna Fournier**  
Auxiliary 5390  
*Portsmouth*



**WASHINGTON**  
**Barbara Heston-Moore**  
Auxiliary 2289  
*Seattle*



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
**Bernice Delorme**  
Auxiliary 4516  
*Belcourt*



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**Kathleen Brock**  
Auxiliary 11079  
*Elgin*



**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**Cindy Dolly**  
Auxiliary 2102  
*Wardensville*



**OHIO**  
**Teresa Singh**  
Auxiliary 3809  
*Middletown*



**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**Wanda Rae Mix**  
Auxiliary 2118  
*Brookings*



**WISCONSIN**  
**Inez Semington**  
Auxiliary 6550  
*Strum*



**OKLAHOMA**  
**Paulette McCord**  
Auxiliary 3649  
*Wilburton*



**TENNESSEE**  
**Fran Meeks**  
Auxiliary 4188  
*Tullahoma*



**WYOMING**  
**Ansjie Lansing**  
Auxiliary 2673  
*Cody*



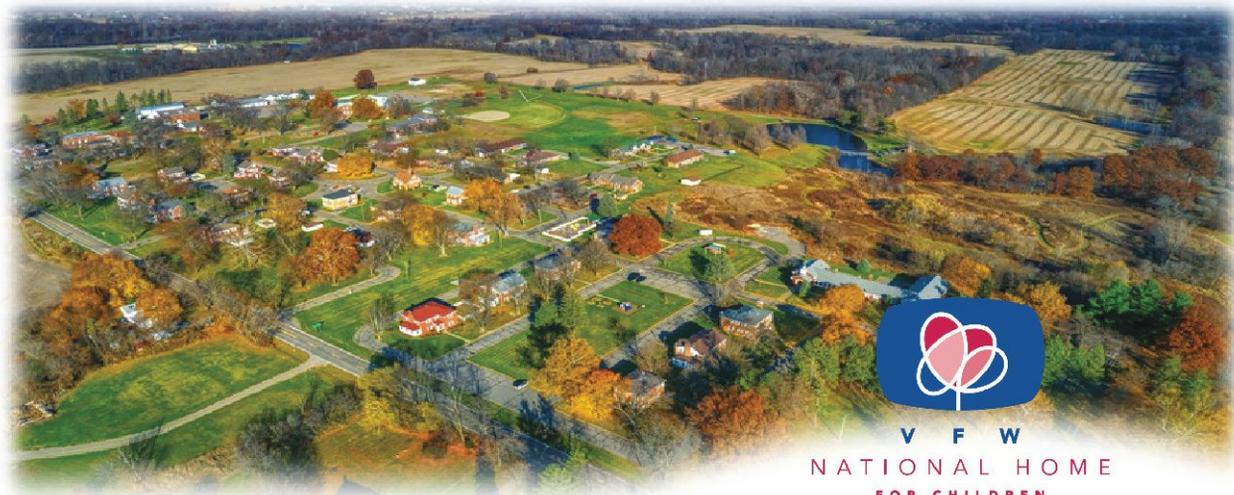
# NATIONAL CONVENTION 2021

This year, Kansas City will host — a four-day event July 31-August 3. Review the tentative Convention schedule on page 19 and note that details could change.

Reference the VFW Auxiliary's National website, Facebook page, and update your MALTA profile

to get HQ's E-Newsletter for the latest updates on Convention.

Download the Auxiliary's Convention app the last week in July for the latest details about Convention events.



**The VFW National Home for Children is a community of veteran families located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.** Our beautiful campus offers the perfect backdrop for children to grow and families to heal.

Our nation's struggling military and veteran families have opportunity to live in one of our 42 single-family homes rent free and have access to free daycare,

counseling and more as they work one on one with a case manager to achieve family plans and goals.

The National Home receives no government funding and is entirely funded by individual donations. We have been changing veteran families' lives since 1925 and will continue to do so, serving as a living memorial to all veterans. For more information call 800.424.8360 or visit [vfnationalhome.org](http://vfnationalhome.org)

# NATIONAL CONVENTION

# 2021



## Tentative SCHEDULE

### FRI, JULY 30

**Noon-7:00 p.m.** Early Packet Pickup at Loews Kansas City & Kansas City Marriott Downtown Hotels

### SAT, JULY 31

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

**9:30-11:00 a.m.** Conference Meetings

**3:00-5:00 p.m.** Auxiliary Opening Business Session

### SUN, AUGUST 1

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

**8:00 a.m.-Noon** Auxiliary Business Session

**1:00-2:00 p.m.** National Line Officers/HQ Staff Q&A

**6:00-8:00 p.m.** Circle of Excellence

### MON, AUGUST 2

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

**8:00 a.m.-Noon** Auxiliary Business Session

**1:00-4:30 p.m.** Programs Seminar

### TUES, AUGUST 3

**8:00 a.m.** Flag Presentation

**8:30 a.m.** Officer Installation & Closing Session,  
half-hour break and National District  
Council Meeting to follow.

**Note:** This schedule is subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions. Be sure to check the VFW Auxiliary's National website, Facebook page and sign up for HQ's E-Newsletter for the latest updates. We encourage members to pre-register for Convention.

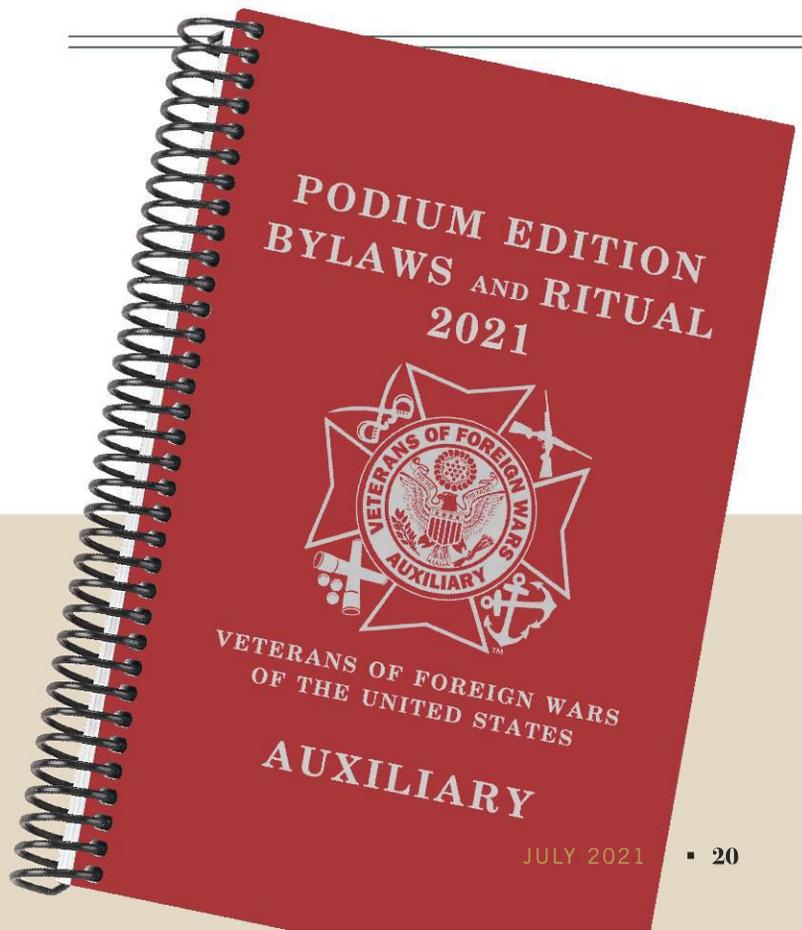
PROPOSED  
RESOLUTIONS  
& REVISIONS  
TO THE  
**National  
Bylaws**

**FIND ALL  
DETAILS**

on proposed resolutions  
and revisions to the National  
Bylaws at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org),  
Events, National Convention.

**RESOLUTIONS**

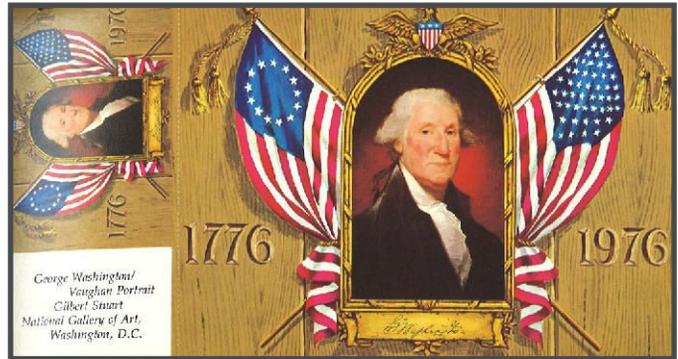
- Resolution to amend Section 604-Quorum (Bylaws and Resolutions Committee)
- Resolution to amend section 1001-Official Look (Bylaws and Resolutions Committee)
- Resolution to amend Section 1001-Official Look (Department of Virginia)
- Resolution to amend Section 101-Eligibility (Department of Delaware)
- Resolution to amend Section 201-Allow for Video Conference and/or Teleconference of Meetings (Department of Louisiana)
- Resolution to amend Section 810-Attendance at District Convention and/or Meeting (Department of Minnesota)
- Resolution to amend Section 802-Elective and Appointive Officers (Department of North Carolina)



# OUT OF THE PAST

It was 1976 and throughout the country, we prepared to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United States of America. Red, white and blue bunting was displayed on Main Street America, parades and picnics were held in small towns and big cities alike and the VFW prepared to erect the Torch of Freedom memorial statue on the grounds of the VFW Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. In support of the project, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, led by National President Glenn Grossman, produced a book of 24 postcards featuring images significant to the first 200 years of our country, which were sold for \$3 each. Funds raised were contributed to help finance the Torch of Freedom and support the National Cancer Aid and Research Program. The bronze pylon sculpture features 12 scenes memorializing those who served in battle from the Revolutionary War through Vietnam.

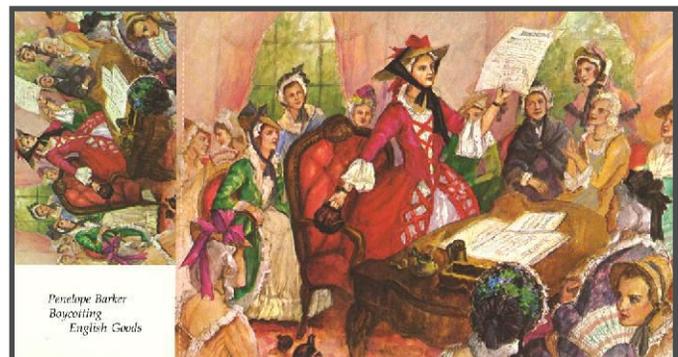
Its inscription reads: **“Out of the past so great to build a greater future in honor and memory of the veterans of all America’s wars who by their service kept the Torch of Freedom burning. This monument is dedicated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Auxiliary to the VFW in honor of all who have served, their parents, wives and children.”** ★ MR



*Portrait of George Washington, the first President of the United States of America.*



*This rendering of the planned Torch of Freedom statue features details of the panels honoring American veterans from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam.*



*Image of Penelope Barker, a North Carolina aristocrat, promoting a boycott of all English goods.*



**WEEKLY PLANNER**  
 Black faux leather with debossed Auxiliary Emblem. 8¾ x 6⅝ x 1¼" with magnetic closure. Planner has a 4½ x 6½" writing pad, 3 business card slots, plus 1 window slot.  
 1221 \$19.95

**VFW**  
 VFWSTORE.ORG



**HAND HELD FLAGS**  
 4 x 6" cotton U.S. flag.  
 9½" staff. Safety ball tip.  
 \* 2199 1 dozen \$5.00  
 6 dozen \$28.50  
 12 dozen \$54.00

\*Must be purchased in multiples of twelve



**GRAVE MARKER FLAGS**  
 Printed cotton fabric with hemmed edges, mounted on staff with gilded spearhead. 5/16" dowel.  
 \* 2150 8 x 12" flag, 24" staff  
 1 dozen \$12.00  
 6 dozen \$64.80  
 12 dozen \$122.40



**RED/WHITE MOISTURE WICKING POLO**

60/40 moisture wicking polyester/cotton. Imported; decorated in the USA.

- 7891 Ladies' S-3XL \$35.00
- 7892 Men's S-4XL \$35.00



**AUXILIARY JEWELRY**  
 Rhodium plated jewelry with full color enamel charms  
 1682 Necklace, 19" chain \$16.95  
 1683 Earrings, 2¾" \$16.95  
 1681 Bracelet \$9.95



**PATRIOTIC DENIM APRON**  
 Multiple pockets and adjustable neck strap. Imported; decorated in the USA. 7239 \$15.95



**TOTE BACKPACK**  
 Polycanvas, with handles and padded back straps, padded main compartment for tablet, two open pockets and zippered front pocket.  
 10½ x 15 x 6".  
 1690 \$40.95



**AUXILIARY TIES**  
 Black tie. 100% polyester with Auxiliary Emblem woven into fabric. Imported.  
 8444 58" \$19.95  
 8443 Pre-Tied 18" \$19.95



**POPPY SCARF** Measures 13 x 56". Imported.  
 1786 \$9.95

Prices valid through 8/31/2021

**Ordering from the VFW Store is easy...**

Order online: vfwstore.org  
 Order by phone: 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387)  
 Order by fax: 1.816.968.1115  
 Mail: VFW Store, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

No.	Product/Description/Size Qty	Price

**Shipping & Handling**  
 Up to \$10.00..... \$4.00  
 \$10.01 to \$25.00..... \$7.00  
 \$25.01 to \$50.00..... \$9.00  
 \$50.01 to \$75.00..... \$12.00  
 \$75.01 to \$100.00..... \$15.00  
 \$100.01 to \$200.00... \$17.00  
 \$200.01 to \$300.00... \$19.00  
 \$300.01 & Over..... \$24.00

Product Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 MO Residents only  
 add 8.85% sales tax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping & Handling \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Post/Aux # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 CREDIT CARD MC Visa Discover AmEx  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date (MM/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**VFWSTORE.ORG** AUX0721

Your purchase from the VFW Store supports veterans, military service members and their families!



9

**WASHINGTON AUXILIARY**

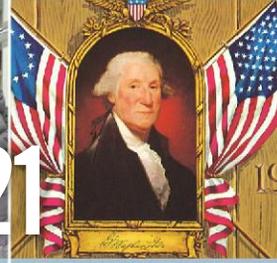
donates 11 tons of food.



11

**PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT**

fights food insecurity.



21

**OUR HISTORY**

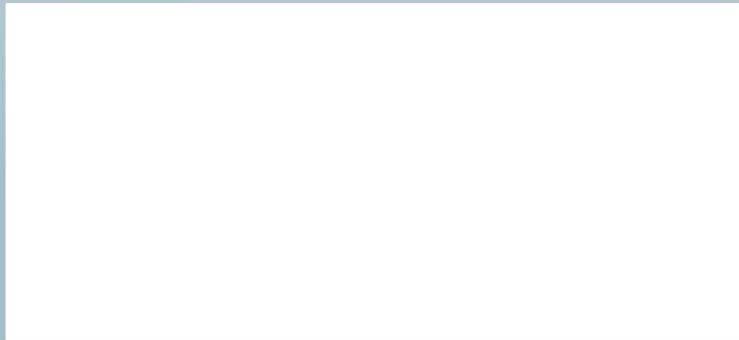
Happy birthday, America, circa 1976.

**JULY 2021**  
VOLUME 83  
ISSUE 1



**VISIT [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)**

and the National Facebook page for the latest organizational updates.



NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PEWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 352

**VFW Auxiliary**  
406 West 34th Street  
10th Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**Auxiliary**  
VFW