

VFW Auxiliary

MAY 2021

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

**NATIONAL
GUARD
CANDIDATES**

**LEADERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**

**CAFE
& MID-YEAR
CONFERENCE 2022**

**VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY
& PATRIOT'S PEN
WINNERS**

**MID-YEAR
CONFERENCE 2021**
**CLEARWATER BEACH,
FLORIDA**





Look for **AUXILIARY NEWS** IN *VFW MAGAZINE'S* MEMBER CORNER

Find news about Auxiliary membership in the May edition of *VFW Magazine* on the *Member Corner* page.

The article, called *Retain Members by Including Their Families*, states that membership retention is greater when VFW members welcome families and encourage Auxiliary membership.

A big thank you to *VFW Magazine* for including the article about VFW Auxiliary eligibility in their March issue!

For Auxiliary members interested in subscribing to *VFW Magazine*, call 1-833-839-8387 or email MSC@vfw.org.

DATES & DEADLINES

May

- MAY 01
- Loyalty Day
 - 2020-2021 Year-End Reports due to Department Presidents
 - 2021-2022 VAVS forms due to National Headquarters
- MAY 05
- Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Department entries due to National Headquarters
 - Illustrating America Art Contest Department entries due to National Headquarters
 - Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! Department entries due to National Headquarters
- MAY 08 V-E Day
- MAY 09 Mother's Day
- MAY 15 Armed Forces Day
- MAY 31
- Memorial Day
 - Deadline for National Convention registration and Delegate registration
 - Member Recruiter Award forms for 5, 10 and 20 new and/or rejoined members due to National Headquarters

June

- JUNE 14 Flag Day
- JUNE 20 Father's Day
- JUNE 30 End of 2020-2021 Program Year and deadline for all donations

For more information, see the **2020-2021 National Program Book** online at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

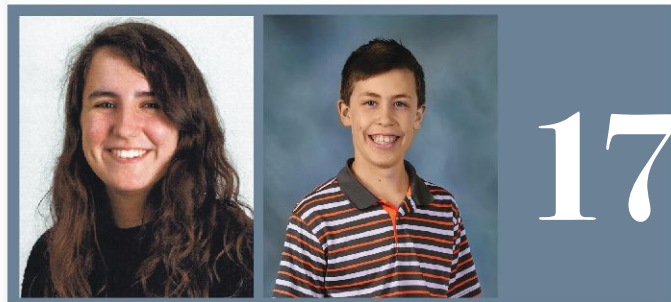
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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



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About the Cover

Mid-Year Conference attendees enjoyed plenty of sand and sunshine while taking inventory of achievements and gearing up for a successful finish to the 2020-2021 Program Year. Photo by Amanda Cook

FACEBOOK: BEST PRACTICES

We love seeing your social media. So much thought and effort go into creating and maintaining engaging Facebook pages and posts.

Here at HQ, we've got you covered with tips and advice on best practices for Facebook.

SOME GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR GETTING STARTED:

- Don't share personal contact information including mailing addresses and email addresses.
- Avoid vulgar language.
- We want to stay neutral. We are an apolitical organization, so we don't endorse any political candidates or post political points of view.
- Great Facebook pages come from good planning! Visit vfwauxiliary.org/resources for more details about administrators, responding to posts and more. Scroll down to Historian & Media Relations, Facebook & Social Media, for this document: Best Practices for Your Auxiliary or Department Facebook Page.



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SOCIAL

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National Organization



*You as members
have embraced
the challenges
with open arms
and positive
attitudes.*

Dear Members—

This Auxiliary year continues to unfold a little differently than any other. Still, you as members have embraced the challenges with open arms and positive attitudes. Thank you for continuing to put ***Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans*** on your front burners.

This year, Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander-in-Chief Hal J. Roesch II, along with his VFW National Headquarters staff, went above and beyond when figuring out how to still execute the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs. I was extremely honored to play a small part alongside the Commander in this new endeavor. I hope you also took pride in knowing the students were still given credit and recognition for their participation.

Those attending National Mid-Year Conference in person or on Zoom had the privilege of hearing from special guest John Rich. You may know Mr. Rich as one half of the country music duo, Big & Rich. He shared with us his commitment to Folds of Honor. It's an organization that provides scholarships to children or family members of deceased active-duty military personnel and veterans. Mr. Rich will be making every effort to attend our Baltimore Convention where I will be presenting him with the Better World Award for his actions. I hope you plan to attend.

Please continue to support my special project that combats food insecurity. Stars, Stripes and Support has benefitted from your generosity. I hope you can continue to support it for the entire Program Year. As a friendly reminder, make these checks out to the VFW Foundation. In the memo section of your check please write UNMET NEEDS/HUNGER. Together we can and will make a difference for many facing hunger.

On another note, please get registered to attend our National Convention in Baltimore. We have some wonderful plans in the works and hopefully they will be beneficial to each one of us. You, your votes and your voice are important pieces of our organization's structure.

Loyally,

Sandi Onstwedder

SANDI ONSTWEDDER
National President



*I want to ask
you to keep
this positive
energy going.*

Dear Members—

National President Sandi Onstwedder said it first, on the previous page of this issue: she commended all of you for embracing the challenges of the last year-plus with positive attitudes.

I couldn't agree more that this rings true for most of our members. Instead of quitting, you found new ways to support our mission and reach our veterans, service members and their families. Instead of lamenting or complaining, you worked even harder. Some of you did this not only in the face of a global pandemic that presented so many limitations, but also despite personal challenges, injuries, illness and setbacks.

You should be proud of what we've accomplished. I want to ask you to keep this positive energy going and to keep being flexible.

At the time of publication back in March, we were still not out of the woods yet. We were enduring a lot of uncertainty.

So, I also ask you to bear with us, realizing that some information in this issue of the magazine might have changed between press time and when it reaches your homes beginning in late April.

I encourage all of you to regularly visit our National Facebook page, National website and if you haven't already, make sure your email address is in MALTA so you can receive our free E-Newsletter that is delivered to your inboxes every two weeks. These additional communications tools from HQ will contain the most current information because they can be made available to you more frequently.

In the meantime, here's what won't change between March and May: our National Guard candidates. Hear from them on Page 14. Read about becoming an Auxiliary leader on Page 15 and why Auxiliaries should have succession plans. See excerpts from Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winning entries on Page 17.

I hope to see you all in Baltimore in a few short months. And I hope to not have to include the asterisk symbol in conjunction with our plans in any future issues of the National magazine.

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

Amanda Cook
Editor-In-Chief

VOLUME 82 NUMBER 6

Editor-In-Chief

Amanda Cook

Contributing Writer

Maria Royer

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Website

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, 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.



I AM A VETERAN AND A MEMBER OF AUXILIARY 7462, PIERMONT, NEW YORK. I am also the widow of Gil McCormack, a marine who fought in the battle on the Eniwetok Atoll beach in the Philippines.

In September, 2014, your magazine printed

my husband's story about returning a Japanese flag to the Kawaski family in Tokyo, Japan. I was very proud to read it in your magazine and sent it to my relatives, including my young granddaughter, Kelly. When she learned that I had received a thank-you letter from Ayaka Sano, the granddaughter of the Kawaski family, Kelly, unbeknownst to me, searched the Internet, found her and became friends.

For Christmas 2015, Kelly gifted me a book called *The Flag*, containing information about her search and pictures of the Japanese family, including Fujio, the grandson who died in Guam. In May, 2016, Kelly and Ayaka met in New York City. In May 2019, the McCormack family flew to Japan to meet the Kawaski family.

This is truly a story of the Stars and Stripes reaching out to the rising sun and embracing PEACE!

I also want to thank you for printing the *My Veteran* story in 2014. It was the beginning of this wonderful adventure.

I also have received some interest in making this story into a movie.

TESS MCCORMACK
Piermont, N.Y.
Auxiliary 7462

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, marked "Letter to the Editor," or send them to VFW Auxiliary Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Fl., Kansas City, MO, 64111.

MY VETERAN

JAMES W. FRISCH



TOP: Trinity Anderson dressed in her grandfather's uniform for a history project.

BELOW: James W. Frisch, formerly of Post 2801, during World War II.

When Trinity Anderson, granddaughter of Life Member Lee Frisch, Auxiliary 2801, Cary, Illinois, was tasked with adopting someone relevant to World War II for a group history project, she chose James W. Frisch, the grandfather she never met.

The then-14-year-old homeschooled student participated in a history project activity hosted by a homeschool mom who provides learning opportunities for approximately 60 children. Each student created World War II propaganda and a movie poster featuring their project persona, wrote weekly journal entries from the perspective of their subject, dressed in the manner and style of the World War II era and heard first-hand accounts from World War II veterans as well as a woman living in Japan during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Anderson researched her grandfather by reading his letters and memoirs and viewing his medals and photographs. She learned that he had initially been rejected from joining the Army due to hearing loss but was later drafted once additional recruits were needed. He was injured and while recovering far from home, learned that his father had died, leaving him to mourn alone. In a letter home, he relates, "This morning the Red Cross contacted me. The minute my name was called, I knew what had happened."

Frisch was stationed in several locations including France and Germany and, Anderson notes, "On a few of his missions he had to cover his face with charcoal and go behind enemy lines."

As a result of the project, Anderson said, "It is important to understand the events...that cause wars. Hopefully, we learn not to repeat the past, while having a deeper connection to our ancestors and humanity."

In addition to learning life lessons from a bygone era, she found some common ground with her grandfather regarding community service. Frisch had made a vow that if he survived the war he would "come home and give back to the people around him and his country," and that's what he did, becoming active in community organizations and helping others. While Anderson hopes she'll never "fight in a war," she expresses a shared interest in community service: "I believe it is important to help others, just like my grandpa."

Anderson's view into the past through the eyes of her grandfather instilled a broader understanding of war and the desire of those who fight to protect our country, both overseas and at home. Additionally, she was introduced to the heart, mind and soul of a grandfather who though gone, lives on in the life of his granddaughter. ✨MR

My MALTA

TAKE A LOOK AT SOME UPCOMING DEADLINES MEMBERS CAN HANDLE IN MALTA:

BY MAY 31:

- Delegates and Alternates may be entered in MALTA. (They may also be sent by mail, fax or email to info@vfwauxiliary.org.)
- Register for National Convention. Save time—register online!

BY JUNE 30:

- Annual continuous members **MUST** have his or her 2021 dues received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by June 30, 2021 in order to maintain his or her continuous years of membership within the organization.

If an annual continuous member's 2021 dues are not received at National Headquarters by June 30, 2021, continuous membership will end. He or she will then have to:

- REJOIN the organization
- PROVE his or her eligibility again
- Be READMITTED by voting members into the local Auxiliary AND
- START continuous years over.

This change will also affect an annual continuous member's eligibility for a Cancer Grant. If continuous membership is not maintained, he or she will have to wait one full year before the member is eligible for another grant. There remains a limit of two grants per lifetime.





2021 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

COMING TOGETHER IN CLEARWATER

In a land where palm trees sway, just steps from sun-kissed beaches as soft as confectioners' sugar, VFW Auxiliary leadership met in "Bright and Beautiful" Clearwater Beach, Florida for a Mid-Year unlike any other.

This Conference didn't *look* much different. We cheered. We enjoyed fun in the sun. We learned. But unlike Mid-Years past, we smiled at each other with our eyes from behind face coverings. We elbow-bumped hellos to friends.

This year, more than 200 members came to celebrate victories the Auxiliary and VFW family achieved for veterans and service members despite the many challenges of navigating a global pandemic—a crisis that changed our world, and the ways we support our mission, nearly one year ago at Conference time.

VFW National Commander-in-Chief Hal J. Roesch II captured this unprecedented era so well in his remarks at Conference meetings,



TOP RIGHT: National Senior Vice-President Jean Hamil toasts National President Sandi Onstwedder aboard a harbor cruise on the final night of Mid-Year Conference. **BELOW:** Department Presidents Steven Hodge, Tina Whytsell, Wanda Farbe and Robyn Kuznik hit the dance floor.

stating that we knew what we were signing up for; the 2020-2021 Program Year began in the midst of COVID-19, but when other organizations said, “We can’t,” the VFW and Auxiliary family said, “We can,” and found extraordinary and creative ways to thrive.

Department Presidents kicked off the weeklong event with a mystery, when what appeared to be a typical dinner and night out turned into a “murder” investigation hosted by the interactive theater group, The Dinner Detectives. The authorities, Detectives Romeo and Juliet, (all cast and Auxiliary members chose code names) called on members to help unravel clues. Was it Splash? Or Tinkerbell? Or could it be Miss Money Penny or Blue Jay?

In the end, and after much noodling over the evidence, the guilty party was captured before making a final, dramatic break for freedom.

The next evening was inspired by a need to protect against disease centuries ago. A face covering called the Plague Doctor mask or Medico della Peste, once worn because it was thought to protect practitioners from the bubonic plague, later became an iconic look among partygoers at the Carnival of Venice.

Auxiliary members’ masks also made a cheerful evolution halfway through Mid-Year. Members donned festive disguises for their very own masquerade reception, a soirée specially chosen by National President Sandi Onstwedder to “celebrate safely.”



Monday began with a bang at the National District Council meeting. National Guard Lois Callahan invited members to grab the balloon from under their seat and take a pin to it to punctuate everyone's mutual wish of getting to a place where we can finally say goodbye to COVID-19.

Business included news that Auxiliary investments are performing well even in the face of the pandemic and visits from special guests Roesch and a Zoom surprise appearance

from John Rich, half of the country music duo Big & Rich. Also an entrepreneur, Rich donates a portion of the proceeds from his Redneck Riviera product line to Folds of Honor, an organization that provides scholarships to children and spouses of fallen and disabled service members.

"I've been a huge supporter of our veterans for my entire life," Rich said, "and have had literally hundreds of members from various VFWs around America on my stage to honor their service.





To be able to speak to the VFW Auxiliary was quite an honor, and it felt like I was talking with family! I look forward to strengthening my relationship with this incredible, patriotic organization in the months and years to come. God bless America!"

Onstwedder hopes to bring Rich to National Convention to present him with the Better World Award that recognizes individuals' outstanding contributions to society.

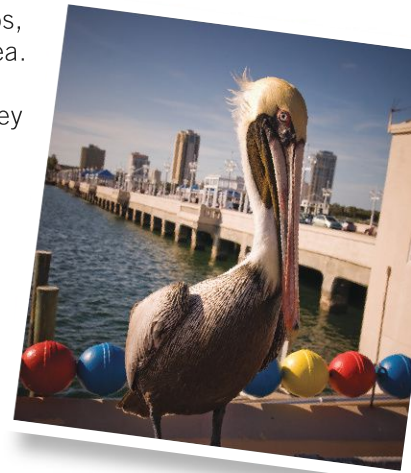
In other business, National Ambassadors, some of whom joined via Zoom, presented updates on all National Programs and shared inspiring SWAPs.

Mid-Year concluded with a three-hour cruise. Not the Caribbean cruise we had planned on, but a lovely sunset trip around the shores and under the stars, nonetheless.

As part of her toast to Onstwedder, National Senior Vice-President Jean Hamil delivered these words:

"There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea. But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."

Members dined and danced the final night away, leaving this trip as dedicated as ever to fulfilling our mission, no matter what life hands us. 🌹 AC



PAGES 11 AND 12 TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: A view of Clearwater Beach. John Rich makes a surprise Zoom appearance. **Photo by Jeremy Scott.** **PAGES 11 AND 12 LOWER LEFT TO RIGHT:** Actor detectives kick off a lively investigation. Maryland Department President Felicia Weeks helps unravel the mystery of Linda Evans' dinnertime "demise." Onstwedder addresses masquerade reception guests and poses with VFW National Commander-in-Chief Hal J. Roesch II and Department Presidents. Members gather incognito for photo opportunities. **Event photos by Amanda Cook.**

9th CAFE & 2022
MID-YEAR
CONFERENCE



DUAL EVENT in Florida

Join incoming National President Jean Hamil for a Mid-Year Conference and Celebrating America's Freedom Event that will be out of this world.

Meetings and events are scheduled January 29 through February 3 in Melbourne, Florida, with CAFE in Cape Canaveral at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex on Feb. 1.

"From the dawn of space exploration to current and ongoing missions, you can get an up-close, hands-on feel for the story of humans in space," according to the Center. "Fuel your quest for inspiration right here."

Look for more details to come in future issues of the magazine, on our National website and in the E-Newsletter.



NATIONAL GUARD CANDIDATES



Donna Mills
PENNSYLVANIA

What inspired you to run for National Guard?

I first considered running for this office when I was encouraged by others to run. Their confidence in me and support for my candidacy was a great inspiration. Experiencing the gratitude of veterans and their families who

are assisted and supported by the things we do every day was another inspiration. I believe that I have something to offer to the membership of the VFW Auxiliary and those we serve. I want to make a difference in the life of just one veteran and every time that I do, I have met my goal. I want to work with every one of you to achieve this goal over and over and this inspired me to become your next VFW Auxiliary National Guard.

How can we best position our organization for continued success?

Continuing to recruit, retain and rejoin members to the VFW Auxiliary are without a doubt the most important things we can do for continued success. Concentrating on our core Programs and mission, proudly boasting about what we do and the fun we have doing great things for veterans will attract others to be a part of what we are doing. I believe in making every member feel as if they are part of the team. When a member speaks to me, I want them to know that I will listen. If they have a question, we will find the answer. And we will provide them an answer that is meaningful and can be understood. I look forward to our continued successes every year.



Stephen E. Doherty Sr.
RHODE ISLAND

What inspired you to run for National Guard?

It goes back to my “Why” I joined. I want to do more for my fellow veterans and their families. My career in the Navy, and then later as a “dependent” spouse to my Navy veteran gave me a unique perspective. I was able to experience both sides. After being Department President alongside my wife as the Department Commander, I had a greater appreciation for what the Auxiliary

does on the Department and National levels for our veterans. I served as Department President for two years and Rhode Island made the Circle of Excellence both years. I was inspired by what we accomplished and became even more energized to help our veterans and their families. I want to engage with members across this country and work with them side-by-side on the Programs that the VFW Auxiliary has to offer.

How can we best position our organization for continued success?

We can continue to support and work with our VFW members, veterans, military and families of today and tomorrow.

We have one of the best tools around—*Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation*—a guide with suggestions and examples that are meant to assist us all. We can continue to move into the 21st century with new technology, equipment and media. As we invite and encourage the younger generation and new members to join our organization, we must find amicable ways to keep them involved in the mission. This will bring continued success and provide a positive atmosphere. This is investing in the mission and the future of our organization. We are making a difference and will continue to make a difference in our communities.

YOU COULD BE A LEADER

Have you ever been inspired by a leader in our organization? That person might be your Auxiliary Chaplain, Department President or a National Ambassador.

You might have thought, “I want to do what they are doing for us one day,” or “I have great ideas I think will improve the Auxiliary.”

Maybe one of these leaders, acting as a mentor, even encouraged you to take your dedication to the next level by saying, “You should consider becoming an Officer.” If this resonates, you could be a leader.

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE WELL-SUITED FOR A LEADERSHIP ROLE?

Mentoring for Leadership National Ambassador Erin Mezek said qualities good leaders have in common include reliability, good communication skills and being open-minded, patient and willing to learn and teach.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

“When a member feels the call or wants to take on leadership,” Mezek said, “one of the first things they should do is meet with a trusted mentor to set goals and execute a plan. Secondly, a member

wants to make sure that they can fulfill the duties being asked of them— (e.g.) does it fit into their current/future personal responsibilities?”

Grace Patch Kelly of Auxiliary 6851, in Canaan, Connecticut, joined the Auxiliary in 1979. Since then, she’s gone through the chairs, more than once, and is no stranger to leading and mentoring.

“Over the years I was fortunate to have had many great mentors who encouraged me to learn everything I could about how not only the Auxiliary worked, but how the VFW worked as well,” she said. “Watching the leaders that came before, I set my sights on becoming an Auxiliary President. I’ve held that position 10 times, far exceeding my expectations.”

WHY BECOME A LEADER?

The benefits and rewards of leadership are many. Leaders get to bring fresh ideas to the table, Mezek said, share knowledge, mentor and help the Auxiliary grow.

Patty Mosier, Treasurer of Auxiliary 1762 in Bessemer, Alabama, said becoming an Officer was a great way for her to learn more about the Auxiliary and hone new skills.



“I have been the Treasurer of my Auxiliary for 20 years,” she said. “It has helped me be able to know more about the Auxiliary and how it works.

It makes me feel good to be able to answer questions and help others get the job done. As a mentor, I try to share my knowledge with everyone. Being an Officer over the years has given me the confidence to speak in front of an audience. I like to be a motivator for Auxiliary goals.”

LEADING IS ALSO GRATIFYING.

“The most enriching part of being an Auxiliary President is having the knowledge and experience to mentor new and existing members everything about the VFW and Auxiliary,” Kelly said. “Each year when I’m installed, I thank them for having faith in my abilities to serve this Auxiliary as well as represent them on the District, Department and National levels.

(Our) Auxiliary has grown from 20 to 70 members and counting. We’ve had the highest percentage of members in the state for the last three years. I work closely with prospective members, assisting them with obtaining the necessary paperwork that proves their eligibility. My journey

with the Auxiliary has taken me through many chairs and at present I’m the Chaplain for the Department of Connecticut. In three years I will be the President, an accomplishment that is often hard to believe.”

Sadly, if an Auxiliary has no one ready to fill its leadership roles, it can close. Our organization has lost Auxiliaries for this avoidable reason. Make it a priority at your Auxiliary to cultivate future leaders.

For more information on Officers’ eligibility, see *The Bylaws and Ritual 2021*, Sec. 801.

Great resources for members considering leadership are:

- *The 2020-2021 National Program Book*
- *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation*

Find these at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Elections and installations are coming up soon. Will you be next? 🌟 AC

FIRST-PLACE WINNERS:

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

“IS THIS THE COUNTRY THE FOUNDERS ENVISIONED?”

\$30,000



ERIN STOECKIG
Rochester, Minnesota
Sponsored by Post and Auxiliary 1215

They taught us the names of ships. Those were the first lessons of kindergarten history: the Mayflower, the Nina, the Pinta, the Santa Maria. Before we could even spell the name of our country, we knew that it began with ships full of people.

Is it still the same country with the people who built it so many generations gone? Is this the country our founders envisioned?

The Constitution of the United States of America, as any fourth grader can tell you, begins like this: "We the people, in order to form a more perfect union...More perfect," they wrote, not "perfect." This country was built to change. "We the people" meant 6%. The 6% who were landowning white men. To form a more perfect union, the 14th Amendment was passed in 1868 and...the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920 and "We the people" came to include women...the Civil Rights Act, the 24th Amendment, and the Voting Rights Act were passed to protect the now expanded right to vote and all the people it gave a voice to. Today, almost 80% of the U.S. population is eligible to vote, and our union is far more perfect for it. But how do you tell them, how do you tell us, of this beautiful legacy we will inherit? That this country, carefully built and lovingly maintained, has withstood the storm of centuries? That, one day, it will be our responsibility "to form a more perfect union" just as the Founding Fathers, our immigrant ancestors, and you intended?

You start with the names of ships.

The story of America began in the hearts and on the land they would call home. It began in their hopes for prosperity, their prayers for religious freedom. America is a land born of ideals. It traces its lineage not to one bloodline, one land, one language, or faith, but to the ideas that forged it.

But, is it truly the same? This question brings us to one final ship, another gift from Ancient Greece: the Ship of Theseus. The story goes that, in the space of a single voyage, all the planks of the ship were replaced, one by one. "Does the ship remain the same?" Philosophers have asked for centuries. "Is it still the same ship, even if nothing of the original remains?"

PATRIOT'S PEN

“WHAT IS PATRIOTISM TO ME?”

\$5,000



WYATT PERKINS
Maryville, North Dakota
Sponsored by Post 4221

When COVID-19 had just started growing in my hometown, many people could not work. My mom and dad told me that veterans, families, and people in general were losing their jobs and not able to support

their families. I was worried about those people and their ability to afford food. I asked my mom and dad if I could show my patriotism by doing something to help people in my community who had to use the food pantry. That's why I created a patriotic benefit called Big Hearted Plants.

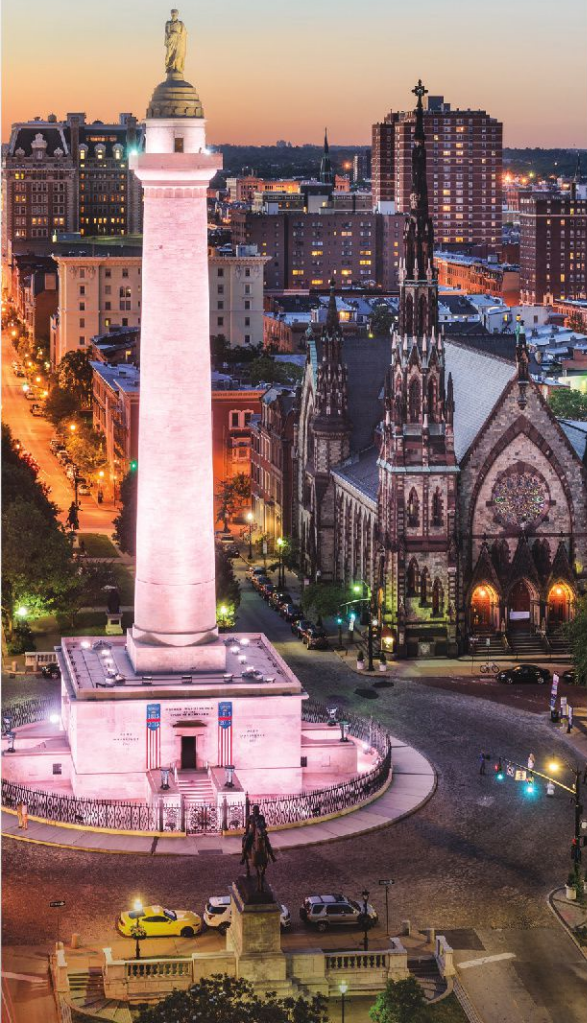
One Friday morning my brother and I potted the succulents to prepare them for sale. I thought the name for my patriotic benefit should be Big Hearted Plants. My brother and I wrote it on some tag board, and I put it on a table with the plants. We got a donation box ready and had high hopes to sell out that day! My mom set up a Facebook ad to spread the word that Big Hearted Plants was open...My whole family went to the local food pantry to drop off the donations I received. I raised \$400.

I felt good about what I had done to show patriotism in my community. I felt something I had never felt before. It was a sense of hope for those people who are getting food from the donations I raised. I also had a sense of pride for doing something for my community. To me patriotism is pride in my country, pride in my community and pride in my ability and desire to help others.

The excerpts above are from the students' original entries, which can be read in their entirety at vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

Tentative SCHEDULE

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2021



FRI, JULY 30

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Early Packet Pickup

SAT, JULY 31

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

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

Noon-1:30 p.m. 45-Plus Club Luncheon
(Reservations required)

5:00 p.m. Circle of Excellence Ceremony

SUN, AUGUST 1

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

8:30-9:30 a.m. Joint Memorial

10:00 -10:30 a.m. First-Time Attendee's Meeting

10:30-11:30 a.m. Meet the National Line Officers

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Past Councilors' Club Luncheon

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

MON, AUGUST 2

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

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Joint Opening Session

2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Auxiliary Opening Business Session

TUE, AUGUST 3

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 a.m.-Noon Registration

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Auxiliary Business Session

6:00 p.m. VFW Patriotic Celebration

WED, AUGUST 4

8:00 a.m.- Noon Exhibit Hall Open

8:30 a.m. Auxiliary Business Session

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Programs Workshop

1:30-2:30 p.m. Treasurers' Training

THURS, AUGUST 5

8:00 a.m. Flag Presentation

8:30 a.m. Officer Installation and Closing Session

4:00-6:00 p.m. Joint Reception for Commander-in-Chief
and National President (Ticketed event),
Hilton Baltimore

POST-CONVENTION EVENTS

FRI, AUGUST 6

9:00 a.m. National District Council Meeting
Hyatt Regency

6:00 p.m. National President's Celebration
Convention Center

NOTE: Schedule subject to change.

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2021

REGISTRATION FORM

Save time!
REGISTER ONLINE!

- National Convention: Advance Registration \$25
 45-Plus Luncheon (Complimentary, see event description below.)

Name Membership No.
Address City State ZIP
Department Phone Email

- Check enclosed Money order enclosed Credit card

DO NOT SEND CASH.

Credit Card No. Visa MasterCard
Name on card Discover American Express
Billing address for card
City State ZIP
Expiration date
3-digit CVV code on back of card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover)
4-digit CVV code on front of card (Amex only)

This form and all payments must be received at National Headquarters by May 31.
DO NOT ENCLOSE DELEGATE LISTS WITH THIS FORM.

SAVE \$10!

Advance registration is \$25.
On-site registration is \$35.

Register in MALTA, pay with credit card (form above) or mail a check to:

VFW Auxiliary

406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor,
Kansas City, MO 64111
Attn: National Convention Registration

Registration must be received by May 31.
Registrations received after May 31 will be rejected.

Member must be present at time of registration to receive packet.

45-YEARS PLUS CLUB LUNCHEON

Have you been a member for 45 years or more?

Come join the 45-Years Plus Club at National Convention.

The luncheon will be at noon on Saturday, July 31 at the Convention Center.

Register online or fill out form and mail to National Headquarters. Registration is required to attend.

Note: To register for the 45-Years Plus Club Luncheon, you must have been a member prior to June 30, 1976, and maintained continuous membership since that date.

AUXILIARY BUSINESS

FOR REVIEW

- May 31, 2021: REGISTRATION CLOSES** for all National Convention events and for National Convention Delegates and Alternates. Delegates may be entered in MALTA, sent by mail, fax or email to info@vfwauxiliary.org. Important note! Only members attending National Convention will receive packet materials. Packets will NOT be mailed after Convention. Do NOT register if you do not plan to attend. Members must be present at time of registration to receive a packet, but on-site registrants are not guaranteed printed Convention packet materials.
- By June 30, 2021:** Input Reports of Installation of 2021-2022 Auxiliary, District and Department Officers online.
- By August 31, 2021:** The 2021-2022 bond payment for President and Treasurer of Auxiliary, County Council and District is due to National Headquarters. Department bond for its Treasurer is also due. Auxiliary Presidents and Secretaries may input this information online or send via mail to National Headquarters.
- Bring your plastic membership card to Convention.** Even though the VFW Store is now selling metal membership cards, you will need your plastic card for registration.
- National Guard candidate interviews** on Page 14. Consider their comments carefully before casting your vote for the VFW Auxiliary's next National Line Officer.
- Revisions and proposed amendments** to the National Bylaws to be presented at the 108th National Convention. Find these on our website at vfwauxiliary.org/national-convention.
- Your mailing address** on this magazine (the same information you need to log on to MALTA). If your address is not correct, please contact National Headquarters at 816-561-8655 or email info@vfwauxiliary.org.

BETTER WORLD AWARD

The Better World Award was established by Past National President Erline Mayberry, 1969-1970, and sought to honor individuals for their outstanding contributions to society. Mayberry's theme, "A Better World Begins with Us," served as the catalyst for the award. The first Better World Award was presented to Apollo 8 Commander Frank Borman during the 1970 Midwinter Conference in Washington, D.C. to acknowledge his important role in American history as commander of the first manned lunar orbit. Mayberry was inspired to acknowledge Borman after the crew of Apollo 8 recited passages from the Book of Genesis during a live broadcast on Christmas Eve, 1968, sharing the Creation Story to all those listening on Earth.

The award was given each year through 2003. Beginning in 1974, in addition to the presentation of a plaque at Midwinter/Mid-Year Conference, a monetary gift was donated to the organization of the recipient's choice. The list of Better World Award winners includes actors, musicians, athletes and authors, who through their philanthropic endeavors, made a positive impact on society.

The Better World Award is planned to reappear after a nearly two-decade hiatus at National Convention 2021 in Baltimore, Maryland. ✨ MR



**COL. FRANK BORMAN,
COMMANDER OF APOLLO 8,**
with Past National President Erline Mayberry.



ANN B. DAVIS OF THE BRADY BUNCH
*is acknowledged by Past National President Frances
Booth for her support of programs for the homeless.*



**GENE RAYMOND, ACTOR, PRODUCER,
DIRECTOR AND WORLD WAR II BOMBER PILOT,**
*with Past National President, Vona Houtz,
earmarked the monetary donation to aid students
at the U. S. Air Force Academy.*



USA FLAGS NYL-GLO FLAGS

Flies in the lightest breeze
2307 3 x 5' \$23.95
2308 4 x 6' \$34.95



POW-MIA FLAGS

Double-sided
2233 3 x 5' \$37.00
2234 2 x 3' \$27.00



PATRIOTIC T-SHIRT

100% polyester. Distressed patriotic sublimated design with Auxiliary Emblem shadowed on front and back. Imported.

7868 Ladies' V-neck
 S-2XL \$27.00
 3XL \$32.00

7867 Men's crew neck
 S-2XL \$27.00
 3XL \$32.00
 4XL \$35.00



Prices valid through 8/31/2021



NEW

NEW! LIFE MEMBER CARD Aluminum, same size as a credit card. This is a vanity card and does not replace your official plastic card. Please include your Life Membership information: Name, member number, Post number and location. Status will be verified prior to production of this card.
1985 \$10.00
 Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery



STRAP WRAP PAD Soft micro-velour outside with lined fleece padding. Wrap-around handles up to 2 3/4" for comfortable grip. Hook-and-loop attachment. 8" x 3".
1173 \$14.95

TOTE Heather grey polycanvas measures 21 x 14 x 7". Large open pocket, two pen loops, inside lined with one zippered pocket and two smaller pockets. Zips closed.
1669 \$17.95

MEMORIAL ITEMS

GRAVE MARKERS For use with 3/8" dowel flag. Flag is sold separately. Made in the USA.



5 1/2" cast aluminum emblem with 24" rod.
3200 \$32.95

4 3/4" rugged plastic emblem with 16" rod.
3505 1-11 \$12.00 each
 12+ \$10.00 each



GRAVE MARKER FLAG 12 x 18" flag. For use with the above grave markers. Made in the USA.

2493 1-11 \$7.00 each
 12-49 \$6.50 each
 50+ \$6.00 each



WREATH 20". Made in the USA.
9221 \$46.00



SUICIDE PREVENTION PIN

1 1/8" single post rubber back.
1724 \$3.25



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 8.6% sales tax _____
 Shipping & Handling _____
 Total \$ _____

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

VFWSTORE.ORG

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



**REGISTER FOR THE 2021
VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL CONVENTION**
July 31-August 5 | Baltimore, MD
Register online by May 31

**OUR
HISTORY**
The Better
World Award.

**BE A
LEADER**
You could have
what it takes.

**MID-YEAR
CONFERENCE**
Celebrating in sunny
Clearwater, Florida.



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