

MAY 2023

# VFW Auxiliary

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

**MID-YEAR CONFERENCE**  
ENSENADA & CABO SAN LUCAS

**NATIONAL GUARD**  
CANDIDATES

**VFW'S**  
DAY OF SERVICE

**CAMP LEJEUNE**  
JUSTICE ACT LITIGATION

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





# Phoenix ARIZONA

## VFW AUXILIARY'S 110<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 22-27, 2023

Reference [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org), the [National Facebook page](#) and the National E-Newsletter for the latest details.



# DATES & DEADLINES

*May*

- MAY 1 • Loyalty Day
  - Department Chairmen Year-End Reports due to Department Presidents
  - VAVS forms due to National Headquarters
- MAY 5 • Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Department entries due to National Headquarters
  - 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Department entries due to National Headquarters
  - Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! entries due to National Headquarters
- MAY 8 V-E Day
- MAY 10 Department Presidents' Year-End Reports due in MALTA
- MAY 14 Mother's Day
- MAY 20 Armed Forces Day
- MAY 29 Memorial Day
- MAY 31 Deadline for National Convention registration and Delegate registration

*June*

- JUNE 10 Member Recruiter Award forms for 5 and 20 new members due in MALTA
- JUNE 14 Flag Day
- JUNE 18 Father's Day
- JUNE 30 End of 2022-2023 Program Year and deadline for all donations. Last day to pay 2023 dues to maintain continuous membership.

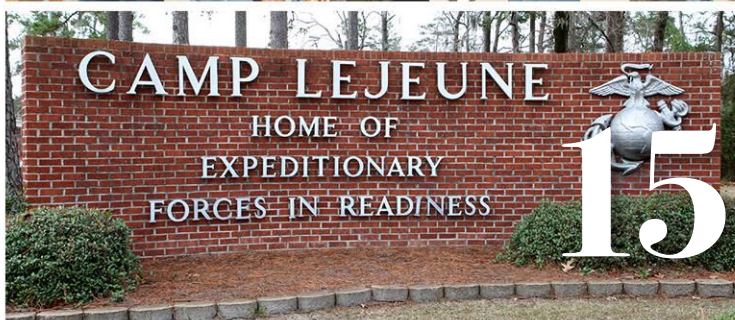
# TABLE OF Contents

MAY 2023 • VOLUME 84 • ISSUE 6

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



## Features

### 8 Print on Demand

*We're exploring how we can work with a service that will let members and Auxiliaries order paper copies of VFW Auxiliary Magazine.*

### 9 2023 Mid-Year Conference

*More than 300 Auxiliary members and guests attended Mid-Year Conference aboard the Norwegian Bliss and explored the Mexican Riviera.*

### 13 National Guard Candidates

*Carefully consider each candidate before casting your vote in July.*

### 14 VFW Day of Service

*Help support the VFW's second-annual Day of Service which focuses on volunteering for community service projects.*

### 15 Camp Lejeune Justice Act Litigation

*What members need to know to begin the process of evaluating legal action.*

### 18 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Winners

*Read excerpts from these talented young students' winning entries.*

## In Every Issue

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 3 Get Digital         | 6 Reader's Voice |
| 4 President's Message | 7 My Veteran     |
| 5 Editor's Letter     | 21 HQ Memo       |
|                       | 22 Our History   |

## About the Cover

Members tour a village on the cliffs that overlook La Bufadora, the second-largest blowhole in the world. *Photo by Amanda Cook*

# DID YOU KNOW

## THAT MEMBERS CAN ADD AN UNOFFICIAL JOIN DATE IN MALTA?



Log in to your MALTA account and click the edit button next to “Member Join Date (Informal Date).” We added this feature to MALTA because many members requested it.

When National Headquarters migrated member data from our previous system to our current MALTA membership system, members’ join dates carried over to the new system, even if a member had joined prior to that date.

Only members may update their informal join date. This is helpful for Auxiliary Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers who plan to organize a membership recognition event. They can run a report in MALTA to get self-reported join dates.

## get SOCIAL

 **Instagram**  
[@vfwauxiliaryhq](#)

 **LinkedIn**  
[VFW Auxiliary](#)

 **Facebook**  
[vfwauxiliary](#)

 **Pinterest**  
[vfwauxiliary](#)

 **YouTube**  
[VFW Auxiliary National Organization](#)





*I have enjoyed each and every one of my visits. What I have enjoyed most is spending time with you - our members.*

Dear members—

Thank you to each of the Departments I've visited. You have provided me with memories and friendships I will cherish for a lifetime. One Department visit stands out where I was attacked by an ostrich. You know who you are and trust me it's one I won't soon forget. Don't worry, I wasn't injured, but it did make for an exciting story!

Congratulations to the many Departments that have achieved 100%. Soon you will be holding your Department Conventions and celebrating all the accomplishments of your Auxiliaries. I also commend your Auxiliaries for all they have done and continue to do to embrace this year's theme, *Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care.*

Thank you to all of the members who have so generously contributed to my special project, 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art. This will ensure that any art media can be judged on an equal playing field. I know we all can't wait to see top National entries from students at National Convention.

Since I last wrote, I was honored to represent the Auxiliary in Washington, D.C. where we supported the VFW as National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland addressed Congress at a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. I was also fortunate to join Tim in recognizing National winners of the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests. Between our two organizations, I'm so impressed by how much patriotism and talent we get to acknowledge.

Thank you to the many Departments who have made it possible for me to attend Mass. You have a special place in my heart. Without you, I couldn't have continued this very important part of my life during my travels. You have taken me to beautiful cathedrals, basilicas, churches, chapels, missions and even a shrine.

You have shared your community veterans' parks, Vietnam veterans memorials, veterans' museums and other meaningful sites. It warms my heart to see how our veterans are remembered and honored in so many important ways.

I have enjoyed each and every one of my visits. What I have enjoyed most is spending time with you - our members.

I am excited to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our Auxiliaries with you at National Convention in Phoenix in just a couple of months. You make me so proud and honored to represent our wonderful organization of dedicated and caring members. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. God bless each and every one of you.

*Jane A Reape*

JANE REAPE  
National President

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." — Booker T. Washington



“Members, we want to hear from you, too. Share your #AuxiliariesinAction and #AuxiliaryPatriotism on social media.”

Dear members—

Let's talk about you. Our members make us the great organization we are. The VFW Auxiliary is a member-based organization, meaning without you to invite prospective members and include and invest in current members, we couldn't work our Programs at every level that support our mission of improving the lives of our veterans, service members and their families.

Because of your work to grow membership and further our mission, we are on track to reach 100% in current membership\*. That's big. It means we are growing as an organization. Let's keep this momentum going. Let's see if we can reach 500,000 in membership (a goal of National Membership Ambassador Jason Estell this Program Year).

You read about this in the special Membership edition of the National E-Newsletter sent to members on March 23.

Members, we want to hear from you, too. Share your #AuxiliariesinAction and #AuxiliaryPatriotism on social media. Send us your photos and story ideas at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org). Tell us what you think about the magazine with a letter to the Editor.

We want to keep our lines of communication open, even when we have to make changes. For those of you who are online and on computers, tablets and smartphones, check to be sure your current email address is in MALTA. That's how we know where to send the E-Newsletter and magazine. Please do not unsubscribe from any emails from National Headquarters, even if the email doesn't interest you. Unsubscribing from any HQ emails, including those about benefits or the VFW Store, unsubscribes members from all. Just delete what you don't want to read.

We've heard from members who have strong feelings about bringing back our paper magazine. We listened, and on page 8, find news about what we hope to do to address this. It is called print on demand. Remember, we will need to count on members who “do computers” to share this information with our members who don't “do computers” as this news has to get shared digitally.

On a related note, we did gain something with the digital format. An additional page for content that used to be our back cover.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person in Phoenix for National Convention. There we'll be able to reconnect with friends and mentors from across the nation, take in training, recognize members for their accomplishments and dedication and more.

AMANDA COOK  
*Editor-In-Chief*

\*At time of magazine deadline in March.

## VOLUME 84 NUMBER 6

**Editor-In-Chief**  
Amanda Cook

**Contributing Writers**  
Nicole Panteleakos &  
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

Braden Design  
[jaclynn@bradendesign.co](mailto:jaclynn@bradendesign.co)

### Change of Address

Forward address changes to: Circulation Department, VFW Auxiliary Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111. Members may also change their own address or email address in MALTA. 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.

I am so sad that I will not receive the National magazine any longer. I have been a member for 62 years and have enjoyed each time that it came.

**PATRICIA WARZECHA**

**Coon Rapids, Minn.**

*Auxiliary 6587*

*(Spring Lake Park)*

**FROM THE EDITOR:** *Patricia, we are looking into an option that would let members and Auxiliaries order paper magazine copies. If a fellow Auxiliary member could share the story on page 8 of this issue, that would provide more information about this.*

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

The editors of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* want to know what you think about features and articles you see (or would like to see) in the magazine.

While we have appreciated receiving all of your feedback about the National magazine going digital, we also look for constructive comments on what you liked, what you didn't and why as well as what you think we could include that we aren't already covering.

This is your page to voice your thoughts!

Email us at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) with Letter to the Editor in the subject line or send your letters to:

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

# MY VETERAN

## GLEN ADAMS II

When the story of Dallas Glen Adams II, VFW Post 1802, Zumbro Falls, Minnesota, was submitted as a potential "My Veteran" subject, it was not sent in by his family, which is most often the case. Instead, it was submitted by the leadership of his Auxiliary family; his "gals." Adams' dedication to his country, his community and his VFW Post was acknowledged by all who knew him.

Adams was a member of the "greatest generation" and a World War II veteran. He was born and raised in the small town of Zumbro Falls. He was drafted into the Army in 1944 at the age of 21. Following basic training, which included hand-to-hand combat training, he deployed for Okinawa, Japan. As a member of the motor pool, he would often work 24 hours per day, acting as a guard at night.

Among the many battles in which he participated, there are a few incidents which remained at the forefront of his memories. One such battle took place in the close confines of a cave where he narrowly escaped after having his teeth knocked out. Another involved an attack that took place while he was the driver of a vehicle that was splayed with rounds of fire. One of his passengers was hit and seriously injured. The soldier lay wounded, blood dripping on Dallas as he pushed on, getting his passenger to safety.

One of his most vivid and disturbing memories took place on the beaches of Iwo Jima. The fierce and bloody five-week battle is often depicted in movies about World War II; experiencing the scene made a lasting impression on Adams. He would describe the amphibious landing, noting that thousands of U.S. troops were killed before ever reaching the shore; some flotillas were destroyed before troops disembarked and thousands more died in the surf or on the beach, so many that the sea turned red with blood. Adams' unit pressed on into the jungle, tossing hand

grenades into bunkers, silently walking along the beach and clearing the area of Japanese soldiers.

During the war, Adams transformed from a lanky 150 pounds, to a bulked up 214 pounds on his 6'7" frame. He was recommended for a career position in the Army, but declined and returned home where he was haunted by the sights and sounds of the war. After a period of adjustment, he became a farmer, an avid conservationist and enjoyed many hobbies. He wed late in life, at age 69, and spent 15 happy years married to the love of his life, Diana.

As a member of Post 1802, Adams donated generously to both the Post and Auxiliary. In September of 2010, the Post flooded to the point where the water was almost to the roof line; everything inside had to be replaced. Adams stepped up and provided significant financial support to return the Post to its original state.

Adams celebrated his 99th birthday in November 2022.

Sadly, he passed away January 5, 2023. However, he lives on in the memories of his comrades at Post 1802 and its Auxiliary, and in the hearts and minds of the residents of the small town of Zumbro Falls.

★ MR



**ABOVE:** Adams with his "gals," members of Auxiliary 1802. **TOP:** Adams' memory box of his service includes a Flag, medals and a photo of him taken in the 1940s when he served in the U.S. Army during World War II.



# GETTING UN-DIGITAL: PRINT ON DEMAND

Based on feedback from members, National Headquarters explored a service that would allow members and Auxiliaries to order printed editions of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*.

This is called print on demand. If we are able to provide this, members and/or Auxiliaries would be able to order one or multiple copies of magazines that would be printed to look like they did pre-digital, and have these mailed directly to them.

## WHAT HQ WOULD FUND:

Setup fee and a per-issue cost to prepare the magazine file.

## COST TO THE MEMBER:

We hope to keep the cost at less than \$5 per issue, including postage.

## HOW IT WOULD WORK:

Members or Auxiliaries would enter their order via a link on our website, including quantity, mailing address and payment information.

## ADVANTAGES:

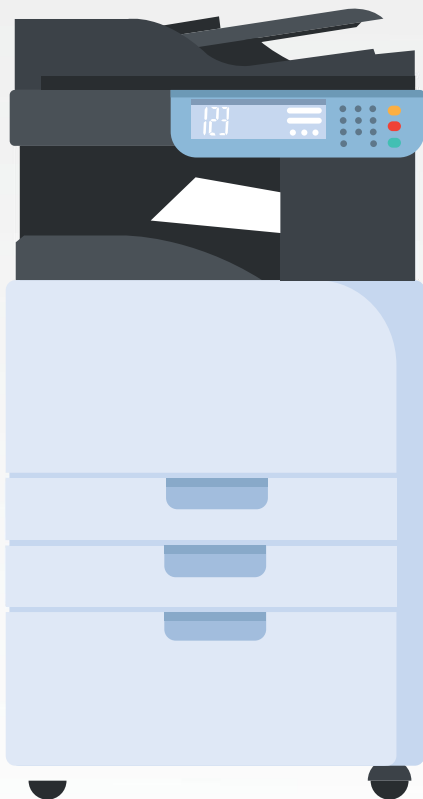
Members can start getting paper editions again and in time, may even order past issues (beginning with the first print on demand issue). It would look and feel like the “old” printed magazine. Members and Auxiliaries could order one copy or multiple to share. Members would not use their own printers or ink.

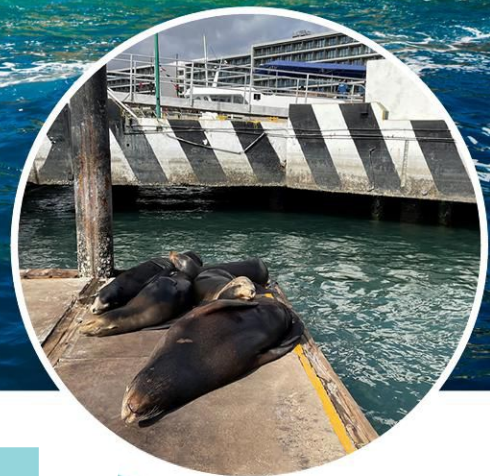
## INFORMATION TO NOTE:

To keep cost as low as possible, orders – from everyone – would be batched. For example, if we batched at 100, all individual orders would mail to each unique address once a total of 100 were ordered from across the nation: Jane Doe from Nebraska orders two magazines, Joe Smith orders 10 for his Auxiliary in New York and so on. The batch could be reached within a few hours or days. We would need to establish an ordering deadline for each issue to ensure timely delivery.

Because it is a per-request system, unfortunately we cannot offer subscriptions.

We will keep you posted on whether we can make this available to members and if so, when. Should we be able to offer print on demand, we will need help getting the word out to members who will be most likely to use this service – those who do not have internet or computer access. ✳ AC





# 2023

# NATIONAL MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

**M**ore than 300 members and guests set sail on the Pacific Ocean for a five-day cruise with National President Jane Reape along the Mexican Riviera for reward and recognition and Auxiliary business balanced with the other R&R – rest and relaxation – during Mid-Year Conference 2023. As attendees got their sea legs aboard the newly-remodeled Norwegian Bliss, they found adventures on

and off the ship; onboard with musicals “Jersey Boys” that tells the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and “Six,” a modern pop interpretation of the tales of King Henry VIII’s six wives, live comedy shows, lounges and dining venues aplenty and even a mini golf course and race track. On land, members explored Ensenada and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Ensenada is home to La Bufadora, the second-largest blowhole in the world, and during a special outing with National President Jane, Department Presidents, National Officers and Past National Presidents saw this natural wonder in person. Members made their trek to the site via a charming shopping village and were serenaded by a mariachi musician singing songs as he strummed a vihuela on the vista by the blowhole. All were warned by our friendly tour guides to beware of getting clothes and cameras soaked by La Bufadora when she blows, and a few learned just how right they were. Cabo's signature landmark is El Arco, "The Arch," a rock formation at the southern end of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula. As the Bliss cruised by the city's distinct formations, members were treated to marine escorts—majestic humpback whales emerged and adorable bottle-nosed dolphins welcomed us to the port.



**TOP:** Cynthia Davis of Maryland and Renee Thayer, Nevada, enjoy a farewell cocktail reception the final evening of the cruise. **MIDDLE:** Chief of Staff Sharon Connolly, VFW Auxiliary National President Jane Reape and National Guard Kim Harney play a game of mini golf atop the Norwegian Bliss. **BELOW LEFT:** Members from the Southern Conference celebrate Mission: Possible and having the highest percentage of current membership as of December 31, 2022. **RIGHT:** Reape and her National Ambassadors are all smiles for a group photo.



On the docks, sea lions, snuggled in small groups, luxuriated in the sun just feet away from the tender.

Cabo, also known as the jewel of the Baja Peninsula, is famous for its world-class sports fishing and

high-end resorts. It's La Calle Primera is known for souvenirs. By journeying just one block away to Ventana al Mar, Window to the Sea, visitors can experience a boardwalk/seawall avenue with an enormous Mexican flag, though on the morning of our arrival, the flag was not flying.

Looking out from the ship, not a small vessel at a length of nearly 1,100 feet and capacity of nearly 6,000 guests and crew, the ocean winked under the sun and appeared to gently swell and dip. But the Bliss is a big ship traversing a huge ocean, and inside the theater where the National District Council Meeting took place, presenting on stage was a balancing act, literally. We weebled and wobbled a little that morning, all in good fun.

Members heard from VFW National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, Adjutant General Dan West and Quartermaster General Marc Garduno; VFW National Home Executive Director Mike Wilson and National Ambassadors shared great SWAPs (Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects) with the audience.

Among them were Americanism: Department of Wyoming's Legislative and Americanism Charimen teamed up to support Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day and showcased their work with #AuxSwap; Hospital: In New Hampshire, members donated pumpkins to and decorated with veterans at a VA hospital for Halloween; Legislative: In Missouri, a member had T-shirts designed the VFW Action Corps Weekly QR code printed on a sleeve; Scholarships: Members in Arizona printed scholarships information on fake \$1 million bills to give to students at a school fair; Veterans & Family Support: Also in Missouri, nine Auxiliaries sponsored three suicide awareness billboards along major highways that promote the Veterans Crisis Line/988.

Attendees also listened as both National Guard candidates, Laurie Dale of Minnesota and Sandra Uzell of Ohio, addressed the membership during the Conference. See page 13 to learn more about them.

Congratulations went out to the Southern Conference, winner of the Conference versus Conference for having the highest percentage of current membership as of December 31, 2022.

As of late March when this story was written, the VFW Auxiliary was on track to achieve more than 100% in current membership, which means we are growing! It also means we're working toward achieving our goals and furthering our mission. A personal mission this Program Year for National Membership Ambassador Jason Estell is to reach 500,000 members. Let's see if we can get there by National Convention!

Resolutions, including consideration of a dues increase, were presented by Bylaws Chairman and Past National President Sandi Onstwedder. Find those, along with any other Resolutions received from Departments, posted in [MALTA Member Resources](#) under Miscellaneous.

Returning to the home port of Los Angeles was bitter-sweet, saying goodbye for now to friends new and old, but looking ahead to wonderful National Convention in Phoenix where we'll meet, work and plan again. The final evening of Conference, members gathered for a reception in the Observation Lounge that has a fantastic panoramic view of the water. Reape and Borland took the mic to encourage and thank members, reflect on a successful halfway milestone this Program Year and, of course, engage in a little more friendly competition over Reape and Borland's joint project: Who in our class of 2022-2023 will raise the most money for a named Voice of Democracy scholarship – the Auxiliary or VFW?



Mark your calendars for Mid-Year 2024 February 12-17 aboard Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas, sailing round trip from Port Canaveral with stops in Cozumel and CocoCay. Click [here](#) for details. ★ AC



**PAGE 11, TOP:** Department Presidents pose with Reape at La Bufadora in Ensenada, Mexico: Lisa Jackson, Massachusetts; Gordon Brown, Vermont; Marvie Wisniewski, Illinois; Debby Fawver, Oregon. **BELOW:** Lisa Raplee, New York, and Diana Ward, Michigan. **THIS PAGE:** Department Presidents Wayne LaFleur, Maryland; David Kacal, Alaska; Cara Jackson, Georgia; and Nancy Rathburn, Alabama, explore Ensenada. *Photos by Amanda Cook. Page 9 top and 12 bottom - Getty Images.*

# NATIONAL GUARD CANDIDATES



**Laurie Dale**  
MINNESOTA

## What inspired you to run for National Guard?

There is a sense of pride that comes from being the family member of a veteran who has served our country and that has played an integral part in my decision to run

for National Guard. For me, there is a personal sense of purpose, a duty to help fulfill our mission, to share our values and to contribute to something bigger. My true inspiration is the veterans that we aim to serve each day and by rising to this leadership position, I reaffirm my commitment to all of them.

## How can we best position our organization for continued success?

- Promote our mission to the community, staying true to our purpose
- Promote partnerships.
- Adopt more technology to educate and keep members informed.
- More marketing - our reputation is our brand. I'm thinking about a National ad campaign and/or more online opportunities as well as direct marketing to younger eligibles.
- Solicit feedback from members to stay current on their wants and needs.
- More team building.
- Diversify fundraising.
- Evaluate our current Programs and initiatives, create new ones if they are sustainable and truly impactful to those we serve.



**Sandra Uzell**  
OHIO

## What inspired you to run for National Guard?

I feel alive when I can do more for our VFW Auxiliary, our veterans and their families. It gives me a reason and a purpose. Surrounding myself with like-minded individuals inspires me to do more. At every level, we can accomplish many things. I have worked to set and achieve many goals at the

Auxiliary, District and Department levels and I want to be able to continue to work at every level, hands on, uniting those working together for our veterans. It's not what I want to do, but who I want to be. I want to be involved with our Auxiliary members, listening to our membership, their wants and needs from the Auxiliary level up. Even while living in the Middle East during the Gulf War, I had

the opportunity to assist our veterans. Our journey may be a calling; it is something within us. It is something we embrace. I want to make a difference, that is why I decided to run for National Guard.

## How can we best position our organization for continued success?

By continuing to recruit, rejoin and retain members. We are smart, we are creative, we are proactive volunteers. Leadership is investing in the growth of others. We can give up, give in, or give it all we've got. We will continue to grow by educating our communities on what we do for our veterans and their families. Mentoring those around us, encouraging others to join and be a part of our team. Concentrating on our core Programs and mission we will continue to market our organization by exploring and delivering value to meet our veterans' needs. Advertising what we do, putting our organization in the spotlight at all levels. We will embrace change as an opportunity to improve our organization, encouraging others to speak up, offer insights and ask questions. It is important to never forget why we are here...for our veterans.

# SUPPORT THE VFW'S SECOND-ANNUAL Day of Service

## VFW DAY OF SERVICE

For our VFW and VFW Auxiliary family, May is for Military Appreciation and Military Spouse Appreciation, Memorial Day, Loyalty Day, V-E Day, Armed Forces Day and Mother's Day. It is also for focusing on what we can do for our communities.

The first Saturday in May marks the kickoff of the VFW's second-annual Day of Service, a nationwide and worldwide initiative led by VFW members that invites VFW Posts and Auxiliary members, veterans of every stripe and local advocates to unite to host a community service event throughout the month.

Whether collecting goods for food drives, caring for a memorial or providing resources to those in need, Day of Service projects helped many in 2022. And we're ready for another giant give-back to our communities.

"We are calling on veterans and supporters across America and around the world to join us in the VFW Day of Service to show that we never stop serving," said VFW National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland.

The VFW Day of Service is an outgrowth of the organization's #StillServing campaign launched in 2020 to recognize the ongoing dedication of veterans and service members who continue to serve their communities. VFW Day of Service, led by veterans and in concert with other organizations and civic groups, is open for anyone to participate.

As pillars of our communities, we can join forces on these projects! VFW or VFW Auxiliary members should register their event [here](#).

Also think about how Auxiliaries can report Day of Service hours as they relate to VFW Auxiliary Programs. See *2022-2023 National Program Book* for reporting criteria.

Visit [VFWDayofService.org](http://VFWDayofService.org) for more information or email [info@todaysvfw.org](mailto:info@todaysvfw.org) with any questions.

We want to see what you and your Posts are doing for VFW Day of Service! Take pictures and post with the hashtags #VFWDayofService, #StillServing and others including #AuxiliaryPatriotism and #AuxiliariesinAction.



VFW Post members unite with community partners for the VFW's inaugural Day of Service in 2022.

# CAMP LEJEUNE

HOME OF  
EXPEDITIONARY  
FORCES IN READINESS



## CAMP LEJEUNE JUSTICE ACT LITIGATION

### WHAT MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW

**Are you a family member of a veteran who was stationed at Camp Lejeune between 1959 and 1987?** These veterans and their families may seek damages as part of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA ) that was incorporated into

the PACT Act. We urge Auxiliary members and their veterans to contact a local [VFW-Accredited Service Officer](#) to begin the process of evaluating legal action.



## BEWARE OF SCAMS AND PREDATORY LAW FIRMS

If you've met with a VFW-Accredited Service Officer and determined pursuing a Camp Lejeune lawsuit is right for you, the VFW encourages you connect with a VFW-entrusted law firm. The VFW has coordinated with both Bergmann & Moore (B&M) LLC and Baird Mandalas Brockstedt Federico & Cardea LLC (BMBFC) as two options to consider in assisting with these claims.

Veterans and their family members suffering from the effect of toxic exposure at Camp Lejeune need appropriate legal representation. Hardly a day goes by that we don't see commercials and junk emails from predatory law firms that offer false promises. It's important that members and veterans connect with legal experts who know how to navigate their claims and have their best interests in mind, which is why the VFW has collaborated with two such law firms that have a long history of honorably serving veterans.

### THEY HAVE AGREED TO:

1. Cap attorney fees at a reasonable rate,
2. No upfront costs,
3. Work with the VFW to ensure veterans explore their earned VA benefits,
4. Counsel claimants on the impact of the offset included in the Camp Lejeune Justice Act before accepting an award,
5. Encourage VFW membership to eligible veterans, and
6. Provide resources to support the VFW Service Officer Program.

Since 2014, Bergmann & Moore has successfully represented more than 3,000 VFW members in federal court and joins the VFW in attempting to ensure its members understand what is at stake and whether to join the Camp Lejeune Justice Act litigation. Contact [B&M](#) or call 800.898.9450. Baird Mandalas Brockstedt Federico & Cardea, LLC specializes in environmental mass tort litigation with a focus on groundwater contamination. Contact [BMBFC](#) or call 410.421.7777.

## TWO-YEAR DEADLINE

The deadline for filing an administrative action with the United States Department of the Navy is on or before August 9, 2024. The CLJA provision under the PACT Act expires two years after enactment.

# FAQS

## HERE ARE SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CLJA PREPARED BY BERGMANN & MOORE:

**Q: If I file a CLJA claim, will this impact my VA benefits or health care I already receive?**

**A:** No. VA has confirmed that your VA compensation benefits or health care services will not be impacted if you file a CLJA claim. If you receive a one-time award in the CLJA lawsuit, your VA benefits will not be reduced, and your eligibility for other VA benefits or services will not be affected.

**Q: Will VA reduce my benefits if I file a VA disability claim after I receive an award from my CLJA lawsuit?**

**A:** No. VA has confirmed that any award you receive under the CLJA will not influence VA's decision to provide you benefits or health care based upon your exposure or the amount of compensation you receive from VA.

**Q: Is it advisable to file both a VA PACT Act claim related to Camp Lejeune water exposure and a CLJA tort claim?**

**A:** Generally, yes. As noted above, VA has confirmed that a CLJA award will not affect VA benefits and care. A CLJA claim is simply a separate remedy for individuals who suffered from toxic water exposure at Camp Lejeune. An award under the CLJA will be a one-time monetary benefit which Congress has recognized as a remedy for individuals who fit the definition of coverage.

**Q: Do I need to have any of the presumed Camp Lejeune illnesses to file a CLJA claim?**

**A:** No. VA and Department of Defense (DOD) have recognized a limited number of presumptive conditions as being linked to the toxic water at Camp Lejeune; however, there are multiple other conditions and diseases that can still be linked to the toxins that were released into the ground water at Camp Lejeune. If you suffer from a condition that you think may be related to your exposure, you should file a CLJA claim. Your attorney will examine the evidence and advise (after consulting with a medical expert) whether your condition may be related to toxic ground water exposure.

**Q: I have already signed a fee agreement with another law firm to represent me in my CLJA claim. Can I change firms?**

**A:** Yes. Just because you have already signed with another law firm does not mean you are stuck with that firm, especially if you feel the attorney fees and costs are too expensive. To change firms you will need to communicate with the firm in writing – via mail/email or text is fine. Your letter/note simply needs to say: “I would like to discharge you as my attorney in my CLJA claim. Please return any information I sent you.” You do not need to wait for their reply. When you sign up with another firm you should provide the new firm with a copy of the letter/note you sent the initial firm. They will let you know if any additional information is needed.

**Q: The law firm I signed up with sent me a check related to my CLJA claim that I already cashed. May I still switch law firms and how will this affect my claim?**

**A:** This is what is called an “Advance.” In all jurisdictions an advance in contemplation of litigation is generally illegal. The American Bar Association’s (ABA) Model Rules of Professional Conduct (MPRC) prohibits this practice. Specifically, Rule 1.8(e) states that:

A lawyer shall not provide financial assistance to a client in connection with pending or contemplated litigation, except that:

(1) a lawyer may advance court costs and expenses of litigation, the repayment of which may be contingent on the outcome of the matter; and

(2) a lawyer representing an indigent client may pay court costs and expenses of litigation on behalf of the client.

North Carolina’s Revised Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.8, mirrors the ABA’s MPRC Rule 1.8, as quoted above. See N.C. Rev. R. Prof. Conduct § 1.8(e). This means that unless CLJA settlement funds are paid to the lawyer, the lawyer cannot advance settlement proceeds to a client.

**Q: Related to attorney fees and expenses, what should I generally be aware of?**

**A:** CLJA claimants should be aware of the fees and costs they may be paying to a law firm related to their CLJA claim. If a firm is not willing to immediately explain/ share their fees and costs related to representation, you should not talk to them. It is important to confirm both the fees and the costs as these are distinct. Generally, costs are not known until the end of the litigation so these can always change. We suggest that you look for a firm that caps fees and costs.

A question Auxiliary members may ask is:

**Q: Can a family member of a veteran who passes away pursue CLJA litigation?**

**A:** Yes. Any individual, including a veteran, spouse or family member who was stationed at Camp Lejeune or who was otherwise exposed (including in utero exposure) for 30 or more days during the statutory period may be eligible to pursue a claim under the Act. The spouse or legal representative of a veteran who passed away and who was stationed at Camp Lejeune may pursue a claim under the Act.

Because the CLJA litigation is in the early stages, many unknowns exist as processes continue to be developed to handle the many claims being filed. As such, it is important to stay connected. VFW is dedicated to keeping its members informed as the litigation progresses.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

[PACT Act and Toxic Exposure Information](#)

[Camp Lejeune Justice Act Litigation](#)

[Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Lawsuit](#)

[Baird Mandalas Brockstedt Federico & Cardea](#)



# 2022 / 2023 FIRST-PLACE WINNERS' ESSAY EXCERPTS



**SCOTLAND STEWART**  
*Sponsored by Post 1893*  
**WINCHESTER, TENNESSEE**

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WHY ARE VETERANS IMPORTANT?

**\$35,000**

HONOR.  
INTEGRITY.  
LOYALTY. SERVICE.  
These are simple words to most of us, but to our nation's veterans, these are their core values in life. These words sustained them as they defended us.

Like trophies in a case, pictures in a frame or statues in a museum, veterans serve as a key living piece of remembrance of our nation's history. Their lasting battle wounds tell stories of war, their scars resemble our nation's fight for freedom, and their medals represent their lasting commitment to defending America. With revisionists attacking our nation's history and inalienable rights, veterans provide the personal stories of valor and sacrifice

that remind the next generations of the true positive impact their service to America has had. These courageous men and women literally placed their lives on the line in an effort to eliminate foreign threats against our nation, something most others do not have the ability to comprehend or declare. Veterans do this, not for fame or fortune, but for America and her future generations. In a day where our nation's children and young adults turn to entertainers and celebrities as their potential role models, veterans serve as a moral compass of the virtues of sacrifice and giving to a greater cause. Our veterans' sacrifices represent loyalty, integrity and honor, and their service to our nation should not be ignored.

Veterans of the United States military are important because they risked their lives on the battlefield so that we can safely live ours in the shadows of peace. In return, we owe them that same honor, integrity, loyalty and service we received from them in defense of our nation.



**LEIGHTON PETERS**  
*Sponsored by Post and Auxiliary 2204*  
**RICE LAKE, WISCONSIN**

## PATRIOT'S PEN MY PLEDGE TO OUR VETERANS

**\$5,000**

A VETERAN IS A PERSON WHO has given their time and talent to our country as part of the United States military. Veterans have all made sacrifices and served our country, and many have fought for our freedom and risked

their lives. These facts often go unnoticed, and, sadly, veterans can be forgotten and unappreciated. Other times, veterans may be considered heroes. This might be based on their big muscles, tall stature, the uniform they are wearing or the array of medals they have earned.

The veteran I consider a hero looks a little different than this. He has white hair, tells us funny jokes, makes the best pancakes and gives amazing hugs. My veteran hero is my grandpa.

My grandpa's Vietnam War stories taught me what sacrifice looks like. Watching my grandpa become emotional when he hears "The Star-Spangled Banner" taught me what patriotism looks like. Out of respect and gratitude, I pledge to honor my grandpa and other veterans for the service they have given to our country. I pledge to honor them by standing up and putting my hand over my heart when our national anthem is played, thanking veterans for their service, sending cards to veterans on Veterans Day, donating money to causes that support veterans, honoring the American Flag and volunteering at hospitals and nursing homes for veterans.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VFW'S VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN SCHOLARSHIPS.**

**CLICK HERE**



# 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

*All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted. Times for various functions are subject to change. Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change.*

LS = Livestream

### **FRI, JULY 21**

**9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** Early packet pickup at Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel and Hyatt Regency Phoenix Hotel

### **SAT, JULY 22**

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

**10:00-11:30 a.m.** Conference Meetings

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

**5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.** Circle of Excellence Ceremony (LS)

### **SUN, JULY 23**

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

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

**10:15-11:15 a.m.** National District Council Member Training

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

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

### **MON, JULY 24**

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

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

**1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.** Auxiliary Opening Business Session (LS)

### **TUE, JULY 25**

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

**8:30 a.m.-Noon** Auxiliary Business Session (LS)

**2:10 a.m.-3:45 p.m.** Meet the Line Officers and Ambassadors

**6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.** VFW Patriotic Celebration

### **WED, JULY 26**

**8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

**8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** Auxiliary Business Session (LS)

**Noon-1:00 p.m.** Department Treasurer Get-Together  
*(Dept. Treasurers (DT) and Asst. DT only.)*

**3:00-4:00 p.m.** Budget Presentation

### **THURS, JULY 27**

**8:00 a.m. -8:15 a.m.** Presentation of Department Presidents with colors (LS)

**8:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.** Officer Election, Installation and Closing Session (LS)

**4:00-6:00 p.m.** Joint Reception for Commander-in-Chief and National President *(Ticketed event)* Sheraton Hotel Phoenix

## **POST-CONVENTION EVENTS**

### **FRI, JULY 28**

**9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.** National District Council Meeting, Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel

**6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.** National President's Celebration hosted by the Department of Utah, Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel

*The VFW is planning a first-ever Cornhole Tournament. Please watch for details on the VFW website.*

# REGISTRATION FORM

**National Convention: Advance Registration \$25**

**45-Plus Luncheon** *(Complimentary)* Join date

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.***

***No exceptions or refunds after this date.***

**DO NOT ENCLOSE DELEGATE LISTS WITH THIS FORM.**

## SAVE \$15!

**Advance registration is \$25.**

**On-site registration is \$40.**

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

**VFW Auxiliary**

406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> 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 22 at the Convention Center.

Register online or fill out form (above) 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, 1978, and maintained continuous membership since that date.***

# HQ MEMO: AUXILIARY BUSINESS

- **May 31, 2023: REGISTRATION CLOSES** for all National Convention events and for National Convention Delegates and Alternates. Delegates and Alternates may be entered in [MALTA](#), sent by mail, fax or email to [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto: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 packet, but on-site registrants are not guaranteed printed Convention packet materials.**

- **Before June 30, 2023:** Input Reports of Installation of 2023-2024 Auxiliary, District and Department Officers online.
- **By August 31, 2023:** The 2023-2024 bond payment for President and Treasurer of Auxiliary and District is due to National Headquarters. The Department bond for its Treasurer is also due. Auxiliary Presidents and Secretaries may input this information online or send via mail to National Headquarters.

## FOR REVIEW

- **The Auxiliary and VFW will share an app for National Convention!** There you'll find all of our meetings and attendees and you'll be able to see everything the VFW has scheduled, too. One VFW and Auxiliary family, one Convention app. Look for this to launch closer to Convention.
- **Bring your plastic membership card to Convention.** Even though the VFW Store sells metal membership cards, you will need your plastic or digital card for registration.
- **National Guard candidate interviews on Page 13.** 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 110<sup>th</sup> National Convention. Find these in [MALTA Member Resources](#) under Miscellaneous.
- **Your email address:** If it is not correct in MALTA, please update it in your profile, contact National Headquarters at 816-561-8655 or email [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org).

# Our HISTORY

Members of the VFW Auxiliary have cared for wounded veterans since World War I, volunteering in federal, state and private hospitals. In 1928, the Hospital Program was adopted as the second Auxiliary Program to meet the needs of veterans in hospitals and domiciliary care facilities. Currently, our Hospital Program is two-fold, to include special projects at VA and non-VA medical facilities as well as the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS). With more than 420 VAVS volunteers, the Auxiliary continues to support our veterans in their time of need. Each year, VAVS members are nominated as Volunteers of the Year, and for 2023, the top three Auxiliary candidates have provided exceptional service to benefit veterans.

The top three 2022-2023 Auxiliary VAVS Volunteers of the Year are: First place, Cynthia Davis, Department of Maryland; second place, Glenda Hunt, Department of Texas, and third place, Brenda Blair, Department of Maine.

VAVS National Advisory Council (NAC) comprises key VA staff members and leaders from the veteran service organizations who provide volunteers. In addition to the many support and coordination responsibilities of the NAC, they also accept nominations for their Volunteer of the Year designation.



Cynthia Davis, Auxiliary 8509, greets patients and staff at Baltimore Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland with a smile and helping hand.

As the first-place winner for the Auxiliary, Davis, who has served as a VAVS volunteer for more than nine years, was submitted to the National Advisory Committee for the national phase of judging. For her dedication in her position as a dispatcher in the escort service at Loch Raven VA Medical Center, for which she serves three to five days a week, Davis has been selected as the NAC Volunteer of the Year. Additionally, she volunteers as a phone buddy to veterans of Loch Raven VA Medical Center. Davis was also selected as the Baltimore VA Medical Center Volunteer of the Year. She was honored for her volunteer work and presented with an award at the NAC Conference held in Denver, Colorado. Davis is only the second female Auxiliary member to win this award; Mariann Haman, Department of Michigan, was the first Auxiliary recipient in 2019. The Auxiliary's first and only male recipient, William Talcott, also received his award in 2019.

We congratulate Ms. Davis for her exemplary work and thank all our VAVS/Hospital Program volunteers for the crucial services they provide to veterans, service members and their families.

VAVS was formed by Veterans Affairs (VA) and 13 charter members in 1946 to provide a structured volunteer program under the management of VA employees in cooperation with community resources to serve veterans and their families with dignity and compassion. Our VFW Auxiliary volunteers provide their services at VA hospitals, Community Living Centers, outpatient clinics, Fisher Houses, outreach centers, satellite facilities, federal cemeteries and state veterans homes. ✨ MR



In 1996, the 50-year anniversary of VAVS, Margaret Dellinger, formerly of Auxiliary 846, assists a veterans at Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth, Kansas.



During and after World War II, volunteers support hospitalized veterans wounded during combat.



### GRAVE MARKER FLAGS

Printed cotton with hemmed edges, mounted on staff with gilded spearhead. 5/16" dowel.

- \* 2150 8 x 12" flag, 24" staff  
1 dozen \$15.00
- \* 2151 12 x 18" flag, 30" staff  
1 dozen \$21.00
- \* Must be ordered by the dozen



### USA FLAGS

#### TOUGH-TEX FLAGS

Long lasting, heavyweight

- 2317 3 x 5' \$40.00
- 2318 4 x 6' \$51.00
- 2319 5 x 8' \$80.00

#### NYL-GLO FLAGS

Flies in the lightest breeze

- 2307 3 x 5' \$29.00



### HAND-HELD FLAGS

4 x 6" cotton U.S. flag. 9 1/2" staff. Safety ball tip.

- \* 2199 1 dozen \$6.00
- 6 dozen \$33.00
- 12 dozen \$63.00

\* Must be ordered by the dozen



### POW-MIA FLAGS

Double-sided

- 2233 3 x 5' \$60.00



Ladies'

Men's

### PATRIOTIC T-SHIRT

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

### 7868 Ladies' V-neck

- S-2XL \$34.00
- 3XL \$40.00

### 7867 Men's crew neck

- S-2XL \$34.00
- 3XL \$40.00
- 4XL \$42.00

**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 \$38.95

4 3/4" rugged plastic emblem with 16" rod.  
3505 \$14.00



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

- 2493 1-11 \$10.95 each
- 12-49 \$10.70 each
- 50+ \$10.45 each



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



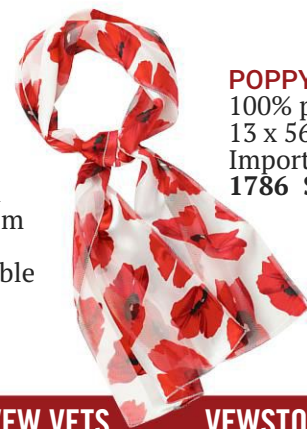
**AUXILIARY APRON** Royal blue 65/35 polyester/cotton treated with Teflon® to repel stains. VFW Auxiliary Emblem screened in white on front. Multiple pockets and adjustable neck strap. Imported; decorated in the USA.  
7241 \$18.95



### EAGLE EARRINGS, NECKLACE & PIN

Color enameled in gold plating, with rhinestones.

- 1776 Earrings 3/4" \$7.00
- 1782 Necklace 18" chain \$10.95
- 1774 Pin 1 1/2" \$7.00



**POPPY SCARF** 100% polyester. 13 x 56". Imported.  
1786 \$10.95