

JULY 2023

VFW Auxiliary

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

**CONTINUING EDUCATION
WINNERS**

**INCOMING DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENTS**

**MID-YEAR
CONFERENCE
2024**

**NATIONAL
PRESIDENT'S
SPECIAL
JOINT
PROJECT**

**2023-2024
NATIONAL
PROGRAMS
NEWS**





Find the 2023-2024 National Program Book

behind MALTA Member Resources after National Convention! This document is filled with useful information about all of our National Programs, their Ambassadors and awards. It can also be a great recruiting tool. To read about Programs news, see Page 17.

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

DATES & DEADLINES

July

- JULY 1 Start of the 2023-2024 Program Year
- JULY 4 Independence Day
- JULY 22 National Convention begins
- JULY 31 Circle of Excellence – All installation reports received

August

- AUGUST 7 • Circle of Excellence – All Auxiliaries must be bonded
- National Purple Heart Day

For more information on awards and deadlines, see the
2023-2024 National Program Book.

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



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About the Cover

This photo of Tammie Burgess visiting her father at a Kingsport, Tennessee nursing home with a basket full of Poppies was featured in the April 1971 issue of [VFW Auxiliary Magazine](#). This calendar year marks the 100th anniversary of Memorial Day "Buddy"® Poppy distribution.

GET DIGITAL

NATIONAL CONVENTION APP

One Auxiliary and VFW Family, One Convention App

This year the VFW and Auxiliary are sharing a National Convention App. In it, the VFW and Auxiliary have organization-specific content for attendees. Download this free app, called VFW Events, in the Apple and Google Play stores to see BOTH organization's schedules, create your own personal Convention schedule, find meeting locations, chat with other members and more. The VFW's agenda items are color-coded red, while ours are blue.

Important:

- When you register in the app as an attendee, you must choose an affiliation (**enter VFW or AUX**) in order to receive announcements/ push notifications.
- Comcast email addresses are not compatible with the app software.
- Upon creation of your profile, the app will ask for your preferred time zone. Be sure to select "Detected Device Time Zone." This will ensure that your app time zone is updated upon arrival and all agenda items have the accurate time.
- If you're unable to access the VFW Events app for any reason, you can still access the web version of the app at eventmobi.com/VFWConvention2023.

Be sure to download the VFW Events app today!

Check back for more information to be added to the app as we get closer to Convention.

get SOCIAL



Instagram
[@vfwauxiliaryhq](https://www.instagram.com/vfwauxiliaryhq)



LinkedIn
[VFW Auxiliary](https://www.linkedin.com/company/vfw-auxiliary)



YouTube
[VFW Auxiliary National Organization](https://www.youtube.com/VFWAuxiliaryNationalOrganization)



Facebook
[vfwauxiliary](https://www.facebook.com/vfwauxiliary)



Pinterest
[vfwauxiliary](https://www.pinterest.com/vfwauxiliary)



*Your commitment,
dedication and
compassion for our
veterans and their
families exemplifies
our mission and
purpose perfectly.*

Dear members—

What an amazing, wonderful, exceptional, fun and rewarding year! There are not enough positive and complimentary words in my vocabulary to describe the 2022-2023 year. It has been an amazing year of service and caring with “hands” and “hearts.” You, the members, taught me about what real service can be.

It has been way more than I ever hoped or dreamed this year could be not because of me, but because of each of you. Your commitment, dedication and compassion for our veterans and their families exemplifies our mission and purpose perfectly.

It has been an honor and truly a privilege to have served as your National President. I am first and foremost a member just like each of you. I am humbled by the courtesies and honors I received in each of your Departments. I will look back, read through my journal and relive each and every memory.

Thank you to the staff at National Headquarters for your help, support and for taking such good care of me. You are truly the very best! To the Line Officers, I cannot thank you enough for your love and support. You are more than friends; you are family. To the National Ambassadors, thank you for accepting and embracing your Programs. To the 2022-2023 Department Presidents, I have grown to love each and every one of you. It was the highlight of my year to come to your state and really get to know you. It has been an honor to serve with you and for you.

To VFW National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, Shannon and the 2022-2023 Department Commanders, thank you for accepting me into your fold. It is an honor to be part of your class. I will cherish our friendship for my lifetime.

To my Auxiliary and VFW family, thank you for supporting me throughout the years. Thank you for attending the installation. To VFW Dionne-Rumble Post 7227 thank you for serving as the installing team. It made the installation so special. Thank you to the Department of New York VFW and Auxiliary; you have supported me through each step of the way. I will be forever grateful.

We reached 100% plus this year! This is because of your commitment to growing our organization. Only through your hard work and dedication did we attain this goal.

To Senior Vice-President, Carla, her team and the Line Officers, I wish you much happiness, success and many rewards as your years approach. My hope is that each subsequent year is better than the last.

Thank you members for working with *Hands that Serve and Hearts that Care*. God bless you and much love!

Jane A. Reape

JANE REAPE
National President



We look forward to celebrating and recognizing our members who have worked so hard this year to support our mission.

Dear members—

We are headed to National Convention soon, so please keep an eye out for the latest news and updates on our National website, vfwauxiliary.org, and in our National E-Newsletter, including a special edition that features a retrospective on National President Jane Reape's Program Year.

We look forward to celebrating and recognizing our members who have worked so hard this year to support our mission. We also have business to attend to, trainings and new National Ambassadors who will share their focus for their respective Programs in the 2023-2024 year.

Read more about Programs news on page 17 of this issue.

Also in this magazine, we have news about how members' generosity helped fund the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art escrow fund, also National President Jane's special project. Look to page 15 to read about incoming National President Carla Martinez's special joint project with VFW National Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento.

It is always a pleasure to meet our members in person at Convention, and beyond that, we like hearing from you, too, about the National magazine. Send any feedback about this or past issues to info@vfwauxiliary.org for our Reader's Voice section.

Keep your eyes peeled for requests for photos and other content in our National E-News and on social media. Also find a new template that will help us help you submit ideas for Member Spotlight and My Veteran feature stories. More on this on page 21. You can find the forms in MALTA Member Resources under Miscellaneous.

What you send us could be featured in one or multiple National communications – even the cover of this magazine. Safe travels, and see you all in the Valley of the Sun.

AMANDA COOK
Editor-In-Chief

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 6

Editor-In-Chief
Amanda Cook

Contributing Writers
Nicole Panteleakos &
Skye Melcher

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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.

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE POSTED ON OUR NATIONAL FACEBOOK PAGE:

Really good articles with lots of information. Great pictures of National President Jane's travels.

WILMA BOYD VAN ORMER
Auxiliary 1115
Hillsville, Virginia

Response to a #TBT (Throwback Thursday) post about VFW Auxiliary Magazine's National Convention 2017: New Orleans, Louisiana story and looking ahead to our 110th National Convention this month in sunny Phoenix, Arizona.

Can't wait – my first time!!!

NANCY SHENK
Auxiliary 6168
Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

Wonderful memories. See you in Phoenix.

SANDRA BRUNTON
Auxiliary 4328
Theodore, Alabama

FROM THE EDITOR: *We love hearing from our members about your National magazine. Tell us what you think about this issue, what you'd like to see or share your thoughts about our digital archives that go all the way back to our very first digital issue in 2013. To receive VFW Auxiliary Magazine in your inbox every two months, make sure your email address is current in MALTA.*

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 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.

AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT

AUXILIARY 8175

In support of kid readers and the Auxiliary's Patriotism Through Literacy initiative, Elkton, Maryland Auxiliary 8175 President Betty Dean worked together with her local and Department Auxiliary and Post members, Toys for Tots, Scholastic and more to collect and distribute more than 195,000 books to kids.

That number again? One-hundred-ninety-five thousand.

Each one, a brand-new book published by Scholastic. Each one a window, doorway, mirror or escape for a child in need. Children in need are close to Dean's heart. Just a few years ago, she made the difficult decision to step down as Department Conductress to dedicate herself to the care of a foster child. Though the toddler was eventually placed with grandparents, Dean remains involved in her life. In the years since, she has also amped up her dedication to volunteerism.

The Life Member joined in 1996 under the eligibility of her grandfather, a World War II veteran. Dean says Auxiliary membership is "basically a family affair." Her husband, James Dean, and daughter, Crystal Alexander are members of Auxiliary 8175, while mother Molly Boyd belongs to Auxiliary 7687 and aunt, Wilma VanOrmer of Auxiliary 6027, is a Past Department President. Dean was Auxiliary President from 2018-2023 and is now Junior Vice-President. On a Department level, she has also served as Guard, Chaplain and Hospital Chairman. She has been involved in Toys for Tots for more than 15 years.

When asked whether this massive book donation was the first time Dean has headed a project that involved both the Auxiliary and Toys for Tots, she says not at all!

"Every year, my Auxiliary and Post do a Christmas breakfast with Santa and Toys for Tots... donates the toys." Prior to this, she did not know that the charity was allowed to donate toys to non-profit organizations like the VFW Auxiliary, so she'd like to spread the word to fellow members: "Call and say, 'We are going to have a Christmas party, is it possible to give toys?'" Dean also shared that Toys for Tots has recently started allowing gifts to foster families all year round, so if members are looking for a way to distribute books collected through Patriotism Through Literacy get in touch!

Scholastic contacted Dean directly when they decided to close some warehouses last year. "They asked if I could take one truck full, then another... it ended up being four tractor-trailers full of books!"

At distribution time, members of the Post and Auxiliary jumped into action. Says Dean, "My Post Commander unloaded books, one tractor-trailer full went to another VFW Post, Cynthia Davis (Auxiliary 9376) got a bunch to take down to the Ronald McDonald House, Felicia Weeks (Auxiliary 5367) took some back to her Post and church" and Alexander "filled her car and brought (books) back to her school" in Washington, D.C. Other Auxiliary members regularly bring books to area Head Start programs and daycares, while some went to the local VA Hospital for visitors and several were delivered to the state attorney's office for homicide memorial victims' families, giving grieving children something to take home. Books were given as gifts at the VFW and Auxiliary during breakfasts with Santa and the Easter Bunny, and thanks to help from the Cecil County Board of Education, 38,000 went directly to Cecil County Public School children. Four more schools are scheduled to receive book donations in July and August.

Thousands of books to thousands of children. Says Dean, "The smiles on their faces" make the hard work worth doing. ✨ NP



ABOVE: Betty Dean with Cynthia Davis; boxes of books ready to go to local kids.

REMEMBERING HELEN HARSH



Helen Harsh
1925-2023

*Touch the Past &
Celebrate the Future*

Helen Harsh grew up on a small family farm in "God's country" immersed in the virtues of hard work and family. She considered her community both the green, rolling hills of Lancaster, Pennsylvania and the Auxiliary, having served the organization for more than 70 years.

Her life adventures included being a Rosie the Riveter, working a drill press in a machine shop on the home front while her husband was stationed in Europe during World War II. She excelled in sales, owning and operating a handbag shop until her commitment to the Auxiliary took her to the highest National office, across our great nation and as far away as Asia on official business.

Known for her cheerful demeanor, Harsh was a self-described people person.

"You just never know what you'll get into when you join the Auxiliary," Harsh said in the September 1994 edition of [*VFW Auxiliary Magazine*](#). "I love going to Conventions. I always feel at home with my sisters. You get to talking with someone and you find you have something in common."

Harsh, a cherished leader, mentor and friend, went to her heavenly home on May 25, 2023 at the age of 98.

She was a Life Member of the Cacolic Valley Auxiliary 3376. Harsh was a charter member of the Charles E. Ludwig Auxiliary 7362 prior. Harsh joined under the eligibility of her husband James. Our very own "Rosie" gave up this job when the war was over as the servicemen were home and back to work.

She was installed as VFW Auxiliary National President in Phoenix, Arizona in 1994 with the theme of *Touch the Past & Celebrate the Future*.

Behind her, Harsh led 765,283 members in a phenomenal year of service. For the seventh year in a row, members raised more than \$3 million for the Cancer Aid & Research Fund. Members donated \$8.4 million in homemade goods to hospitalized veterans and volunteered 2.8 million hours helping non-hospitalized veterans that needed special

assistance. During her time as National President, the Auxiliary doubled its support for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games by donating \$12,000 and being a Gold Sponsor.

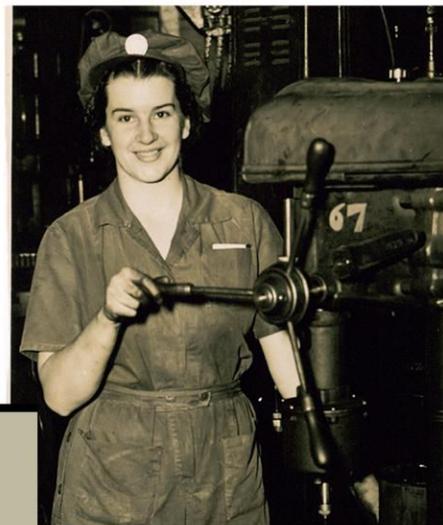
"I first met Helen National Convention in 1990," said Past National President Dixie Hild. "I was Department Guard for the Auxiliary...She kept up with all of us and usually outlasted us in our adventures. I will tell you whomever she met, she greeted them with a smile and a big hello. She made everyone feel as if they were the most important person around. There will never be another Helen; I was so happy to be one of her Department Presidents."

Harsh was preceded in death by James, two of her sons and one brother. She is survived by one son, James, his wife, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and another brother.

"She was one of the most gracious people I have ever met," Hild said. "She always had a smile on her face and joy and happiness in her voice."

Past National President Cortina Barnes remembers Harsh as gracious, knowledgeable, personable and beloved by all who met her. When Harsh was in her element, you couldn't help but get caught up in her enthusiasm.

"My favorite memory of Helen is from the VFW and VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Las Vegas," she said. "I can see Helen on the stage as if it were yesterday. She helped make the Convention fun and exciting. I was hooked and knew that I always wanted to come to National Conventions. I looked up to her as a role model. I will miss knowing that Helen is there to guide us and give advice and her opinions if we need it." 🌟 SM/AC



ABOVE: Past National President Helen Harsh in 1994. Right: Harsh working in a machine shop while husband James was serving his country in World War II.

Congratulations

2023 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!



EASTERN CONFERENCE

MELISSA
CLOUD-MORSE

AUXILIARY 475
NEWARK, DELAWARE

Cloud-Morse of Auxiliary 475, is the widow of a twice-deployed veteran who suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress. She put her education on hold to support him and their family out of necessity but is now pursuing a college degree. Her two children are also in college; she hopes to be an inspiration to them.

"As the wife of a veteran with PTSD from deployment to two different wars, my education took a back seat as I cared for him and our family," she said. "I am now three classes away from (a) degree and my employer of 19 years decided to lay me off this past November. I am already enrolled for my next class this spring and need financial assistance to help me continue towards my goal. I am committed to earning a college degree so that I can best support my family."



SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

HALLIE
THOMAS

AUXILIARY 3962
CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI

Thomas is the daughter of Auxiliary 3962 Life Member Tonya Traylor. She wants to make a difference in the lives of children by becoming a kindergarten teacher. She is currently finishing the process of earning her associate's degree and will start a bachelor's program at Indiana Wesleyan University this fall.

"The melody of a child's laughter after they've knocked down their block tower. The bright eyes of the little girl who wrote her name in purple crayon. The excitement in the little boy who helped his friend count to 10. Those moments are what I live for, and why I have chosen to be a kindergarten teacher," she said. "Each day I go to work with the excitement of teaching and learning from the kindergartners and each night I take classes so that one day, I will have my classroom full of excited children ready to have their moment."



WESTERN CONFERENCE

JORDAN
CREWELL

AUXILIARY 5748
JOLIET, MONTANA

Grewell joined Auxiliary 5748 in 2019 and graduated from high school the following year. She is currently studying animal sciences at Montana State University with the intention of becoming a veterinarian in the future, as it has always been her dream. This scholarship will help ease the financial burden on both Grewell and her parents, who have three other children.

"I am very committed to these goals because I have always wanted to be a veterinarian... I love working with animals, and as a veterinarian I would be able to help my community in a significant way since there are so many people who raise livestock and need a veterinarian," she said. "There is a large demand for high-quality veterinary care in my community, but it is also important to many livestock producers that it be affordable."



BIG 10 CONFERENCE

SEAIRA
MASON

AUXILIARY 7005
WEST JEFFERSON, OHIO

Mason is a Life Member of Auxiliary 7005. She is a graduate entry student in the pediatric primary care nurse practitioner specialty at Ohio State University College of Nursing who wishes to focus on the area of pediatric oncology, better known as childhood cancer. She wishes to "share (her) compassion with those who need it the most."

"Imagine, a brilliant yet exhausted group of individuals attempting to crack the code of the most life-threatening disease," she said. "It is a monster that annihilates over half of our world's population; and even with years of research and persistence, a definitive cure has yet to arise...I have found no greater interest than to discover its pattern and use my willpower to defeat it in every way I am able."

2022-2023

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

MEMBERS HELP GROW AUXILIARY'S NEWEST PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

Auxiliary members contributed a staggering \$122,000* plus to National President Jane Reape's special project, 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art, during her Program Year.

Reape established this contest to create an entirely separate competition for three-dimensional artwork and to facilitate judging by category. After three-dimensional artwork was introduced as a category of Patriotic Art, we heard from members that judging items like sculpture and crocheted pieces against paintings and drawings was tough to do. The new contest aims to level the playing field.

Check out the National Facebook page throughout the month to see photos of all of our National entries for this contest's inaugural year and visit the gallery in the exhibit hall later this month in Phoenix at National Convention to see the top three winning entries in person. Also see the top-12 Young American Creative Patriotic Art pieces as well as the top three (in each division) Illustrating America works of art.

*At press time.



Funds contributed to Reape's special project will establish an escrow fund to provide 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest scholarships to students in the years to come. Visit vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships to find the brochure and entry forms and more information.

The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest has its own scholarship amounts. Current National awards (including a \$2,500 award funded by the Department of New York and a new \$1,500 award thanks to Auxiliary 1391 in Wisconsin) are:

- 1st Place: \$2,500
- 2nd Place: \$1,500
- 3rd Place: \$1000
- 4th Place: \$500

Note: The Patriotic Art brochure has been updated for the 2023-2024 Program Year. The new brochure will be available to order from National Headquarters and will also be in [MALTA Member Resources](#). Also note that incoming National President Carla Martinez's special project focuses on the VFW National Home. Donations to Patriotic Art may still be made in MALTA, Make a Gift; however, the National President's Special Project selection in MALTA will route donations to the Home. See page 15 to learn more about Martinez's special joint project with incoming National VFW Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento. 🌟 AC



2023-2024

Department PRESIDENT



ALABAMA
Patsy Cole
Auxiliary 4190
Decatur



COLORADO
Philip Reinpold
Auxiliary 5812
Pueblo West



HAWAII
Castlette Ale
Auxiliary 3850
Wailuku



ALASKA
Eric Henley
Auxiliary 10221
Anchor Point



CONNECTICUT
Grace Kelly
Auxiliary 296
Winsted



IDAHO
Dawn Chandler
Auxiliary 3043
Burley



ARIZONA
Bambi Johnson
Auxiliary 9399
Apache Junction



DELAWARE
Laura Burrell
Auxiliary 475
Newark



ILLINOIS
Lynn Smith
Auxiliary 5222
Vienna



ARKANSAS
Cheri Wood
Auxiliary 7769
Beebe



FLORIDA
Teresa Bachand
Auxiliary 4781
Ocala



INDIANA
Gennie Leona Pickens
Auxiliary 9820
South Bend



CALIFORNIA
Diana Russell Milton
Auxiliary 4647
North Highlands



GEORGIA
Patricia Dobbins
Auxiliary 6330
Jonesboro



IOWA
Rachel Bru
Auxiliary 8876
Montezuma

IDENTITIES



KANSAS
Mike McCandless
Auxiliary 1432
Salina



MASSACHUSETTS
Mary Christian
Auxiliary 2394
Melrose



MONTANA
Sandra Sullivan
Auxiliary 5514
Troy



KENTUCKY
Anne O'Connor
Auxiliary 10281
Radcliff



MICHIGAN
Sara Manke
Auxiliary 9411
Homer



NEBRASKA
Synthia Stanosheck
Auxiliary 131
Lincoln



LOUISIANA
Lisa Delaney
Auxiliary 4588
Bossier City



MINNESOTA
David Scofield
Auxiliary 2818
Litchfield



NEVADA
Debera Barnes
Auxiliary 10047
North Las Vegas



MAINE
Lucille Salisbury
Auxiliary 6131
Northport



MISSISSIPPI
Barbara Franklin
Auxiliary 5393
Columbia



NEW HAMPSHIRE
Kimberly Copson
Auxiliary 1617
Derry



MARYLAND
VaNette Jones
Auxiliary 10159
Salisbury



MISSOURI
Judith Linneberger
Auxiliary 4107
Lebanon



NEW JERSEY
Alice Sandman
Auxiliary 3020
Riverside



2023-2024

Department PRESIDENTS



NEW MEXICO
Beth Miller
Auxiliary 6917
Las Cruces



OREGON
Debbie Little
Auxiliary 10580
Warrenton



TEXAS
Susie Carter
Auxiliary 6873
Abilene



UTAH
Pamela Griffin
Auxiliary 3586
Salt Lake City



NEW YORK
Rosalie Cooper
Auxiliary 6251
Lancaster



PENNSYLVANIA
**Mary Jean Cuddyre
Mastridge**
Auxiliary 6495
Levittown



VERMONT
Stephanie Casey
Auxiliary 6471
Manchester



VIRGINIA
Vicki Butler
Auxiliary 12202
King George



NORTH CAROLINA
Connie Holt
Auxiliary 4542
Spring Lake



RHODE ISLAND
GinaMarie Doherty
Auxiliary 5390
Portsmouth



WASHINGTON
Rose Green
Auxiliary 2669
Port Orchard



NORTH DAKOTA
Alice Benson
Auxiliary 9061
Mandaree



SOUTH CAROLINA
Laura Sweetsir
Auxiliary 8131
Greenwood



WEST VIRGINIA
Mary Chipps
Auxiliary 9738
Huntington



OHIO
Shannon Stanley
Auxiliary 3494
Mansfield



SOUTH DAKOTA
Pamela Vissia
Auxiliary 6554
Plankinton



WISCONSIN
Sheryl Rosenau
Auxiliary 2260
Oconomowoc



OKLAHOMA
Teresa Stevenson
Auxiliary 8798
Eufaula



TENNESSEE
Anna McKeehan
Auxiliary 5154
Louisville



WYOMING
Cheryl Shannon
Auxiliary 1881
Cheyenne



2024 *Mid-Year* CONFERENCE



SAIL AWAY TO THE ISLANDS

with incoming VFW Auxiliary National President Carla Martinez on a five-night cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas (February 12-17) round trip from Port Canaveral, Florida with stops in Cozumel and CocoCay. Contact Veterans Travel Service (800) 325-9377 to book.

Visit vfwauxiliary.org, Events for more information and access Events in your [MALTA member portal](#) to find the fillable buy-in form.

Cozumel, off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, is known for snorkeling and scuba diving; it is surrounded by a "diverse ecosystem of coral reefs home to more than 1,000 species of marine life." Cozumel's belnearios, or seaside resort, dining and shopping areas, are also popular with tourists.

Royal Caribbean's CocoCay is a private island among the Bahamian cays that features a water park, beaches and nature trails.



2023-2024 COMBINED SPECIAL PROJECT

The VFW National Home Welcome Center Renovation Project

**AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT
CARLA MARTINEZ
& VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
DUANE SARMIENTO**



THE GOAL IS TO REMODEL
the existing lobby area into a welcoming retail space,
updated reception and information area.

JUST A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE RENOVATION:

- Floors would be replaced with a nonslip surface
- A sidewalk would be added from the administration walkway to ensure ADA compliance
- Increased retail space and expanded items available for resident convenience, such as milk and bread
- Postal and parcel operations will be combined for resident and postal worker convenience

Beginning July 1, 2023, members may donate to this project in [MALTA](#) by selecting Make a Gift, National President's Special Project.

CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE/SENT TO:

VFW National Home
3573 S Waverly Rd. Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Reference "Welcome Center Renovation Project"

Or go to: vfnationalhome.org/donate

In comments section type:

"Welcome Center Renovation Project"

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Lisa Jackson, "Buddy"® Poppy and VFW National Home
Ambassador: buddypoppyvfwhomeamb@gmail.com



Executive Offices:
Executive Director,
HR Manager & Chief of Staff

Current merchandise
room very small

Current postal holding
room separate from
postal shipping room



Current reception
space not well utilized

This sidewalk is not ADA compliant and is difficult to ascend. Though we wouldn't replace it, we would add a sidewalk from the admin walkway to reduce slope

Current waiting room
area not utilized
efficiently



NATIONAL PROGRAMS NEWS

2023-2024

IT'S THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR! In honor of that, we'll cover a few housekeeping items in this article.

- *2023-2024 National Program Book* – Find this in MALTA Member Resources. This book is packed with great information about all of our National Programs, their Ambassadors and awards. Members who register at National Convention may also receive a hard copy of this publication.

Programs themselves remain the same, however, the new Ambassadors will each have their own unique take on each and every one, including Program awards. Read about these in the Book and hear from them at the Programs Seminar on Sunday scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at National Convention. You'll also have the opportunity to meet your National Ambassadors and National Line Officers in person at a meet-and-greet scheduled for 2:10 p.m. on Tuesday.

- If you are reading this article, now is the time to stop using or referring to old forms and brochures, as the content changes from year to year and we don't want to promote or share old or outdated information with prospective members or scholarship contest entrants.

Order the latest brochures from National Headquarters as soon as they are available.

We'll post them behind [MALTA](#) Member Resources and on our National website soon, too.



We've made important updates to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art brochure, specifically to contest rules and prize amounts: We've added 14th-19th place prize amounts to the two-dimensional contest.

New for 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art is a \$1,500 award with a total of four National prizes.

For the Continuing Education scholarship, we're pleased to share that this award has also increased, from \$1,000 to \$1,250 per Conference.

Now that you're armed with the resources you need, welcome to the new Program Year. We can't wait to see how you work the Programs, *Banding Together for Our Veterans*. ✨ AC



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Members of Auxiliary 2898 in Toledo, Ohio in 2017: Zandra Anthony, who was Auxiliary Junior Vice-President and Veterans & Family Support Chairman; Jeanne Laney, Auxiliary President; and Beverly Benner, Chaplain, assembling Christmas baskets for those in need.

President Patricia Wolfe of Auxiliary 386 in Cape May, New Jersey holds a bouquet of "Buddy"® Poppies during the Memorial Day remembrance ceremony at Soldiers and Sailors Park. Pictured with her are Norma Nelson and a World War II and Korean War veteran named John.

To commemorate National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, Department of Maryland Hospital Chairman Betty Dean along with Past Department President Cheri Brown, Molly Boyd and Nancy Fowler deliver roses to veterans at a local nursing home.

Auxiliary 1503 in Dale City, Virginia donate wish list item to students at Kerrydale Elementary School in 2022. Pictured in front of the school mural are President Kelli Levitt with members Venee Alicea and Jeanne Palomo.

Two weeks after local public school students underwent diagnostic eye tests, members of Auxiliary 2485 in the Philippines assisted their Post and AAGO Optometry in distributing free eyeglasses to children who needed them.

Auxiliary members in Virginia help the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Department "Pack a Patrol Car," filling it with school supplies and food items to be donated to students in need at Strawbridge Elementary School. Photo sent in by Ellen Stogsdill, Department Secretary, pictured here with Dinah Doyle and Judy Lupole, fellow members of Auxiliary 392.

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

10:30-11:30 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.)

2:00-4:00 p.m. Department Secretary, Treasurer MALTA Training
(all members invited to attend)

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.

HQ MEMO:

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS: 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Find all details on proposed resolutions and revisions to the *National Bylaws* to be presented at the VFW Auxiliary's 110th National Convention behind MALTA Member Resources under Miscellaneous.

- Resolution #1 Treasurer Duty Effective Date
- Resolution #2A Dues Increase Annual Lump Sum
- Resolution #2B Dues Increase Annual Incremental
- Resolution #3 Dues Increase DAL
- Resolution #4 Incorporations

Also, on the National Convention page at vfwauxiliary.org, find links to [brochures](#) from the two 2023-2024 National Guard candidates.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT & MY VETERAN NOMINATION FORMS

After our last social media post seeking Auxiliary Spotlight nominees for [VFW Auxiliary Magazine](#), many members asked whether there was a nomination form to fill out or template to follow. There wasn't, so we created one! It is now available behind MALTA under Member Resources: Miscellaneous and can also be emailed to you by request.

Additionally, we have created a My Veteran submission template, also available behind MALTA under Member Resources: Miscellaneous. This will make it easier than ever for you to pay homage to the incredible veterans under whom you joined or in your Post.

Please fill either form out and attach to your info@vfwauxiliary.org email when you submit your story ideas.

Keep your wonderful suggestions coming! It helps us to know how to best help you.



Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. And Life Member of 2937 Kathy LaSauce served our country as one of the first female aircraft maintenance officers and the first female C-141 Starlifter pilot. She was featured as a My Veteran in 2018.

Diane Sztukowski Saleh (Auxiliary 5020 in Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania) saw her father's story featured in an edition of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*. Pictured above: Irene and Edward Wallace Sztukowski.



Lorna Swan, Life Member of Auxiliary 7227 in Carthage, New York, is also known as the sunshine lady for her unwavering cheerful disposition. In a Member Spotlight from 2015, readers learned about her years of dedication to the organization and her community Flag donation project.

Maggie Jaramillo of Auxiliary 3903, Richmond, Texas, was featured in a Member Spotlight back in 2014. At the time Jaramillo, a "wife, mother, grandmother, lawyer and most recently, a judge," joined the Auxiliary to get more involved with volunteer work that supports veterans.



Our HISTORY

"In Flanders fields the poppies grow / Between the crosses, row on row..."

Thus begins "In Flanders Field", and thus began the strong connection between poppies and military service. It was April 1915 when Colonel John McCrae penned the poem that would be published in *Punch magazine* a few months later. McCrae would not live to see the war's end, but his words have lived on for more than a century.

HISTORY

According to *Celebrate 75 Years: Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW*, the distribution of silk poppies to benefit children post-war started as the brainchild Madame Anna Guerin of France. She worked closely with the Franco-American Childrens League until 1922, when the organization was dissolved.

She then connected with the VFW and, by extension, the VFW Auxiliary, to coordinate a nationwide poppy sale ahead of Memorial Day.

In 1923, after a year of struggling to obtain the original silk poppies, a decision was made to purchase materials from an artificial flower shop in New York City. That is also when the decision was made to have the poppies made by disabled veterans and veterans in need, who would be paid for their work.

ANNIVERSARIES

In 2022, the VFW celebrated a century since they declared the poppy the organization's official flower. Because the decision to do so was voted upon during National Convention, 2023 marked one-hundred years of Memorial Day distribution. In February 2024, it will have been 100 years since the name "Buddy"® Poppy was registered with the U.S. Patent Office, meaning no other organization can use the name. And in 1955, "Buddy"® Poppy officially became a joint Program of the VFW and Auxiliary, providing extra income to disabled veterans, while some of the money from donations goes to the VFW National Home, helping children and families. **(The National Home will be celebrating their centennial in 2024!)**

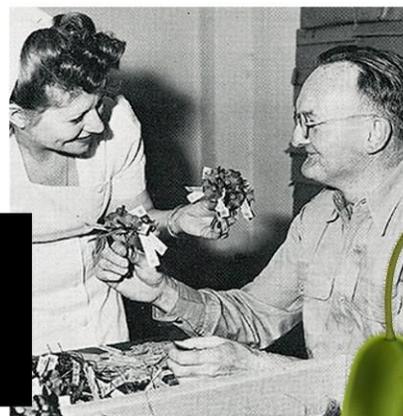
RECENT & FUTURE CHANGES

COVID-19 meant changes for the "Buddy"® Poppy Program. While members continued to distribute them for

donations outside public establishments, there were few places open in May 2020, making it difficult to do so. In 2023, VFW Headquarters and the VFW Store have been working on the rollout of a new "Buddy"® Poppy, one made from tin that is pinched together to be held in place, though the familiar ones will continue to be used. The pandemic also meant changes in who would make and distribute the poppies; this is now done at Cottonwood Incorporated, where adults with developmental disabilities are instrumental in the assembly. This helps them to earn a paycheck while also feeling personal satisfaction, as many are the children and grandchildren of veterans.

The "Buddy"® Poppy has been with us for more than a hundred years, and we hope to continue to use them in remembrance of veterans who have passed, including Colonel McCrae, for another hundred years, thanks to the continued efforts and support of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. ✨ NP

"We are the Dead / Short days ago / We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset flow / Loved and were loved, and now we lie / In Flanders fields."



TOP: Starlet Doris Day was the "Buddy"® Poppy Program's Leading Lady in 1950. **MIDDLE:** Hedwig Olson escorted the 1955-1956 "Buddy"® Poppy girl to the White House where she presented a Poppy to First Lady Mamie Eisenhower. **BOTTOM:** In this undated photo, taken in the 1940s, a VFW Auxiliary member smiles with a veteran who helped work to assemble Poppies while in the hospital as part of his therapy.



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



POW-MIA FLAGS

Double-sided

- 2233 3 x 5' \$60.00



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



HAND-HELD FLAGS

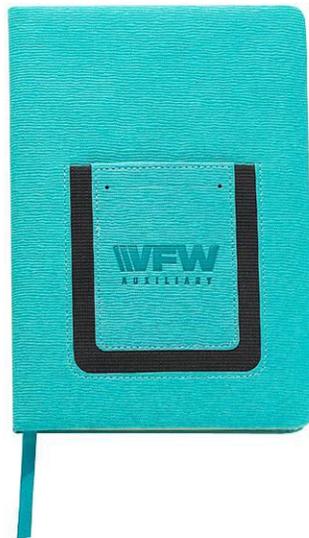
- 4 x 6" cotton U.S. flag.
9 1/2" staff. Safety ball tip.
- * 2199 1 dozen \$6.00
- 6 dozen \$33.00
- 12 dozen \$63.00



LADIES' BLUE AUXILIARY CARDIGAN

VFW Auxiliary embroidered on left chest. 4.4 oz., 62/33/5 polyester/rayon/spandex. Roll sleeves with button tabs.

- 7813 S-2XL \$48.00
- 3XL \$52.00



TEAL JOURNAL

Front pocket fits most cell phones. Elastic pen holder, ribbon bookmark, document pocket on inside back cover. 80 lined pages. 5 1/2 x 8 1/4". Debossed VFW Auxiliary.

- 1203 \$19.95

HEART NECKLACE

Cut-out heart measures 1 1/4", has blue and red enamel fill and rhinestones on a 20" rhodium plated chain with lobster claw clasp. 1768 \$10.95
While quantities last.



12 OZ. TUMBLER

Double wall, vacuum sealed, stainless steel with copper lining. Press-in, drink-thru clear slider lid. Hand wash.

- 3140 \$15.95



VFWSTORE.ORG



ALUMINUM LIFE MEMBER

CARD Same size as a credit card. Include your name and Life Member number, Post number and location. Information will be verified prior to production of this card. 1985 \$12.00



BLUE HEATHER JERSEY

AUXILIARY CAP Cotton jersey with white embroidery. Six-panel, medium profile structured cap; fabric strap with two-piece hook-and-loop closure.

- 7232 \$16.95



SUICIDE PREVENTION

PIN Silver tone with translucent enamel. Rubber back. Engraved on back. 1 1/8".

- 1724 \$3.25