



The Colorado Veteran



Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
And its VFW Auxiliary Official Publication

August, 2024

Volume 64, Issue 1, 2024-2025



Carol Thomas
State Commander

I would like to thank everyone for being at the State Convention in Cripple Creek, the turn out was just amazing. It is great to see so many people.

This is something I never thought would happen to me, but you must always believe in yourself and your abilities and great achievements can be met.

I am going to do my best to make this a very good year for the Department of Colorado. We have great comrades that were elected this year and the chairpersons that were appointed are great and we will blossom together.

We are having a change of the watch between Commander John Keene and myself. We have already saved the department over \$4,000, thanks to Jesse and Rachel at the VFW HQ, keep up the good work. HQ staff is planning an open house in the near future...so stand by. We have increased communication within the department and will be spreading cheer amongst the districts and post level as well. Since the installation, we have attended an awards ceremony in Aurora by the South Korean Ambassador awarding Korea Veterans the Peace Award. Thanks goes to all who coordinated this event as well as those who attended. We also attended Parker Days sup-

porting their membership drive.

I have spent just over 36 years in the Navy, experienced many challenges throughout my career and would not change anything. It was actually an enjoyable learning experience in my life. I joined the VFW in 2009. Some of us that were demobilizing and getting ready to transition back to our civilian jobs went to breakfast in San Diego where a VFW Post was having a recruiting event and they advised us that the Global War on Terrorism- Expeditionary Medal was an eligibility requirement so we all signed up as Life Members. I have been affiliated with the VFW since I was like 7 years old, due to my mother marrying a Navy WW2 Veteran.

If your post or district is having an event please let HQ know so we can get it on the schedule and maybe if schedule permitting on of might be there.

I am very proud to represent the Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars. We will have a very great year this year. I am here to work for all veterans.

COLORAD VETERAN & AUXILIARY NEWS

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Report ALL Program Reports On-Line

vfwco.org

**Updated the First of every Month
Written Reports will NOT be accepted**

Post & Auxiliary Change of E-Mail Form

Name: _____

New Email: _____

VFW Post Number: _____

Send changes to vfw@vfwco.org



Fred Scheck
State Sr. Vice
Commander

Greetings Comrades,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 VFW year. I hope everyone had a fun and safe 4th of July (hopefully you don't have neighbors like mine who shoot them off till the wee hours of the morning).

This year is looking to be a very exciting year, with the incoming National and Department Officer teams, look for some changes to our organization. One change I would like to see is getting more members getting involved in the post and district levels. Talk to that member who never volunteers and ask them to pick one post project a year to get involved in. Who knows they might just have some fun and get more involved. If we don't ask, they may not know what the post is doing.

I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

Fred Scheck
Department Sr. Vice Commander



Todd Van Sant
State Jr Vice
Commander

Greetings.

I am deeply honored to have been elected as your Junior Vice Commander for the State of Colorado. Thank you for your support and trust. I am excited to embark on this journey and work alongside Carol, Fred, and everyone else elected and appointed this year to make this year productive and impactful for our veterans and communities.

Our recent state convention in Cripple Creek was a resounding success, thanks to the department's exceptional efforts. The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the breathtaking VFW Warriors ride through the mountains, which showcased the camaraderie and spirit of our organization. Kudos to everyone who contributed to this fantastic event!

As we look ahead, it's time to start preparing for the VFW Airlift. This crucial initiative supports our veterans in need, and your contributions of food, toys, or money can make a significant difference. Please send food and toy donations to VFW Post 9644, while monetary donations should be directed to the department. Although the airlift is a few months away, early planning ensures we can maximize our support for this worthy cause.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness and take action. Suicide is a critical issue that affects many veterans, and it's essential that we all play a part in prevention. Reach out to your fellow veterans, lend a listening ear, and encourage them to seek help if needed. Together, we can create a supportive network that helps save lives.

Thank you once again for your confidence in me. Let's work together to make this year remarkable for the VFW and the veterans we serve.

Todd Van Sant
Department Jr. Vice Commander



James Sheridan
State Surgeon

Greetings to all,

I hope all is well for everyone in Colorado. I would like to say thank you to everyone who has voted for me to be the Department Surgeon for the State of Colorado VFW. I have been Chief of Staff for two commanders, Gerri Rimpley and John Keene. I have learned a lot from them as well as learning from every Veteran in the VFW in Colorado.

I am learning on the job for Surgeon. If anyone needs anything from me or would just like to chat get my email and phone number and we can talk. I am honored that you as the Veterans of Colorado trusted me to be within the command structure of Colorado. Thank you.

We have a very exciting year ahead of us. With the new command and new office personnel this will be a great year for Colorado. We have a great command team this year. And as always, WE work for you every day.

Jim Sheridan
Department Surgeon



Jesse Eastburn
State Adjutant/
Quartermaster

Greetings, Veterans and VFW Supporters!

As your Adjutant Quartermaster for VFW Colorado, I'm excited to share our ongoing mission to serve veterans and their families. Your involvement is crucial to our success, and I want to highlight our achievements and renew our focus on recruiting and retaining members.

First, let's celebrate our accomplishments, from community outreach to veterans' assistance projects. These successes reflect the dedication of our VFW family.

Our strength comes from unity and commitment. By working together, we can continue advocating for veterans' rights and benefits.

Recruitment brings fresh energy and new perspectives. Each new member enhances our impact and strengthens our voice. Share your positive experiences to inspire fellow veterans to join us.

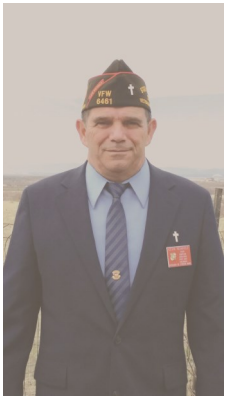
Retention is equally important. Create a welcoming environment, engage members, and offer meaningful involvement. Regular communication and social events will help keep our members connected and committed.

I encourage everyone to contribute to our recruitment and retention efforts. Share our story, invite veterans to events, and be a positive ambassador for our cause.

Our unity is our strength. Let's grow our VFW family and continue our legacy of service.

Thank you for your dedication. Let's make a difference together.

Jesse Eastburn
Department Adjutant/Quartermaster



Kevin Reinhold
State Chaplain

Fellow Chaplains,

Praying everything's going well with each of you and your service to our veterans, families, and your communities.

Chaplain of the Year for 2023 - 2024 went to Chaplain Robert Derrera from Post 9644. Chaplain Robert's service and support to Veterans, families, and community went above the basic services of a Chaplain. We want to thank Chaplain Robert for exemplifying the Chaplain's role as a servant to the veteran community and all those around him.

National Chaplain Zoom Training Classes will resume following the National Convention, the first training will be on September 19th. Your Chaplains will receive this information in an email. Please share with your Auxiliary Chaplains when you get the training information or have them contact me.

Resources for Chaplains: Check out Past National Chaplain Hook's Chaplain's page. Pennsylvania Web Site - vfwpa.org. Look under Resources to find Chaplains Guide. Also, the VFW National Chaplain page at https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html there you will find a tabbed panel containing information on Articles, Duties, Ethics, Forms, Handbook, Links, Memorial, Prayers, Religion, Training, News, and Events. Check out our Chaplaincy Page on the Department web Site.

Other Links and Resources: VFW Chaplain Training Videos - www.youtube.com/@VFWChaplainTrainingVideos; VFW Chaplain's Guide - vfwpa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=88797; VFW National Chaplain Site - lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html; VFW Chaplain's Corner - movfw.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=76106; Armed Services Ministry - armedservicesministry.org/; Plus Nothing - plusnothing.com/about/; The Jewish Publication Society - jps.org/free-jps-tanakh-offer/; Faith Comes by Hearing - www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/; GriefShare - www.griefshare.org/

If any Chaplains, Commanders or Members need prayer, have any questions or need information. Please contact me.

Kevin Reinhold
Department Chaplain
"Doing Our Lord's Work for all Veterans"

Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
1400 Carr Street
Lakewood, CO 80214

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 1**July 1, 2024****SERIES: 2024-2025**

1. **Having been duly elected and installed** into the office of Commander, Department of Colorado, according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command of the Department of Colorado. All previously appointed officers' and committee persons' term of office is hereby declared expired. The following officers have been duly elected and installed at the 104th Annual Convention held June 5-8, 2024, Cripple Creek, CO., and having full authority to act and shall be obeyed accordingly: COMMANDER: Carol Thomas, #12009; SR. VICE COMMANDER: Fredric Scheck, #6624; JR. VICE COMMANDER: Todd Van Sant, #9644; AJDUTANT/QUARTERMASTER: Jesse Eastburn, #1; CHAPLAIN: Kevin Reinhold, #6461; JUDGE ADVOCATE: Kirk Rosa, #12009; SURGEON: James Sheridan, #2788; CHIEF OF STAFF: William Flores, #899; INSPECTOR: Eric Hutchins, #3917; JR. PAST DEPT. COMMANDER: John Keene, #1; SERVICE OFFICER: Mathew Cummings, #6624; ASST SERVICE OFFICER: Ralph Overhelman, #1771; ASST SERVICE OFFICER: Matthew Lewis, #3917; ASST SERVICE OFFICER: Richard Ball #3981; DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER: Samuel Wybenga, #1; DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER: Joshua Caverzagie, #4061; DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER: Dwayne Windisch, #47; DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER: Michael Stevens, #3541; DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER: Travis Baker, #6461; DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER: Jesus Garcia, #2411; DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER: William Flores, #899; DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER: Kirk Rosa, #12009; DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER: Jeremy Garber, #4265; DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER: Leroy Chavez, #7945; DISTRICT 11 COMMANDER: Leonard Ladue, #3981; DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER: Tommy Endres, #5231; DISTRICT 13 COMMANDER: Robert Renfrew #6491.
2. **COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION:** The next *Council of Administration meeting will be Sunday, August 25, 2024, in Cortez at the Montezuma County Annex Building, 107 N Chestnut St, Cortez, CO 81321.* Joint Opening will be at 8:30 A.M. ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS OR THEIR PROPER REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE PRESENT. Any and all District and Post Officers and members are invited to attend. Uniform of Sunday will be black and whites. All Council members must sign the roster with the Department Adjutant to record your presence at the Council of Administration meeting and workshops. *Training Sessions will be on Saturday August 24, 2024 at the Elks Lodge 1789, 2100 Dolores Rd, Cortez, CO 81321.* Dress code for Saturday training is casual.
3. **2024 SPRING SWEEPSTAKES:** Prize winners of the Spring Sweepstakes will be listed in the August Colorado Veteran.
4. **SUBSCRIPTION DUES** notices will be mailed to the membership by National Headquarters. Call Department Headquarters with any questions.
5. **NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE:** All Posts are reminded of the provision of the National By-Laws, which requires at least one registration from each Post. The registration fee of \$25.00 for the first Delegate and \$10.00 for the rest of the Delegates and a completed registration form must be sent to the Quartermaster General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.
6. **QUARTERMASTER BONDS - AUDITS:** It is the duty of Commander to see that the office of Quartermaster is bonded and that Trustees Reports of Audits are completed, signed by the Commander and Trustees, and mailed or emailed to Department Headquarters no later than 25 days following the close of each quarter. All Quartermaster bonds carried through Department expire August 31, 2025. Quartermaster Bonds are required per Article VII, Sec 703 of the National Bylaws. Bond Applications have been emailed to the Post Commanders & Quartermasters and District Commanders.
7. **DEPARTMENT COLOR GUARD:** All requests for the State Color Guard Units will be directed by the State Commander to Jerry Sallee and will be handled in order of priority established by the Commander and recommendations from the District being considered. All requests will be submitted in writing to the State Commander, and it is requested that a copy be sent to Captain Jerry Sallee at HC63, Box 101, Monticello, UT 84535.
8. **COMMUNITY SERVICE and OTHER REPORTS:** Post Commanders are advised that all Community Service, Youth Activity, Americanism, Loyalty Day, Hospital and others pertaining to the Department Program report – REPORT DIRECTLY on the Department Web Site, vfwco.org. The reporting year commences April 1, 2024. Do not report programs completed prior to that date for the reporting year 2024-2025. Go to VFW Members, on the right side click on Reporting and all the instructions and Programs are listed. Do Not send to Department Headquarters. VFW Program Chairman will be notified that you have reported and will record your cash, hours and miles for the Program year. Report, Report, Report.
9. **VFW CAPS, OFFICIAL:** All personnel are advised that there is only one official cap of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a cap of the overseas type, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, State, rank of office (when applicable), and bearing the Cross of Malta emblem. Organizational echelons will be designated by the appropriate color of the braid and lettering on the cap. ***Caps will not be worn while eating or seated during meals.*** All other types of headgear, i.e., baseball types, western types, sporting types, are not official headgear and will not be worn at meetings of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

(General Orders No 1—Continued)

10. **2023-2024 AWARDS:** Posts or individuals who have not received the appropriate awards they earned from the Department of Colorado in the 2023/2024 year, please notify Department in writing.
11. **MEMBERSHIP:** The new membership year has started. Sign up a new and/or reinstated member and earn awards from the Department.
12. **To VFW Auxiliary** President Nadia Flores, Department Officers and Auxiliary, I hereby pledge the continued support of all the members of the Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

ATTESTED BY:
\s\ Jesse L. Eastburn
Jesse L. Eastburn
Department Adjutant

BY COMMANDER OF:
\s\ Carol J. Thomas
Carol J. Thomas
Department Commander

On July 13, 2024, Englewood VFW Post 322 proudly renamed itself the Danny Dietz VFW Post 322 in a heartfelt ceremony honoring the late Navy SEAL Danny Dietz. The event was marked by a profound sense of pride and remembrance as several artifacts were presented to the post in Danny's honor. Though his father, Dan Dietz, unfortunately passed away before witnessing this significant tribute, his mother, Cindy Dietz, attended the ceremony and accepted the honors on behalf of her son. The renaming reflects the post's dedication to honoring local heroes and ensuring their legacies endure.

Danny Dietz, a native of Littleton, Colorado, was a Navy SEAL who bravely served his country during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan. Tragically, Danny lost his life on June 28, 2005, during an intense firefight with Taliban forces, a sacrifice that earned him the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism. His story of courage and dedication continues to inspire many, and the renaming of the post in his honor ensures his legacy lives on within the community. The ceremony not only highlighted Danny's valor but also underscored the ongoing commitment of VFW Post 322 to uphold the values and sacrifices of our nation's service members.



Quartermaster Bonds are DUE!!

Bond Policy runs from September 1st to August 31st!! Please see <https://vfwco.org/index.php/members/downloads/Post%20Forms>

to get the application for the 2024/2025 Bond! Mail to: VFW Dept of Colorado, 1400 Carr St., Lakewood, CO 80214 or Email: vfw@vfwco.org

Trustee Audit Reports

Audits are due the 25th after the quarter. April to June audit due July 25th.

Get in as soon as you can!!

Mail to: VFW Dept of Colorado, 1400 Carr St., Lakewood, CO 80214 or Email: vfw@vfwco.org

VFW Air Lift & CABA!

As we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, it's time once again to focus on one of our most impactful initiatives: the VFW Airlift. I was walking around the store last week and they already had their Christmas decorations out, which reminded me to remind all of you about the VFW Airlift coming up in just a few months! This year's Airlift is scheduled for December 7th, and we are calling on all our posts to support this vital mission.

Last year, with your incredible support, we raised over \$20,000, allowing us to deliver food to over 1,500 veterans and their families across Colorado. We processed 10 tons of non-perishable food, which equates to over 90,000 meals on the tables of veterans and their families—not including the hundreds of toys collected! However, due to the rising cost of food, we will need even more resources this year to meet the growing needs of our veterans.

We are excited to announce that posts can once again apply for the Uniting to Combat Hunger grant from the VFW, which matches \$1,500 donated to the VFW Airlift. This means your post can contribute the first \$1,500 without being out of pocket a dime! The grant application opens in September, so make sure to donate early and file promptly to ensure your post secures these funds. For more information on the Uniting to Combat Hunger grant and how to apply, visit [Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant](#).

How to Contribute:

- **Donations:** Send all monetary donations to /made out to the Department HQ.
- **Requests for Assistance:** If you need food, logistics support, or wish to volunteer, please contact Ron Davies.
- **Toy Drives:** Set up a toy drive at your post for small toys to be included in the Airlift deliveries.

We are aiming to make the 2024 VFW Airlift our biggest yet, and we are counting on your generosity and dedication to help us reach more veterans and their families than ever before. Let's come together to serve those who have served us and ensure that no veteran goes without during the holiday season.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.

VFW Department of Colorado & Auxiliary had the distinction of meeting the family of U.S. Army Technical Fifth Grade Clifford Strickland. Clifford Strickland was stationed on the Philippine Islands when Japanese troops landed, he was subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and then held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp till his death on July 29, 1942. His body was identified and returned to Colorado on June 27, 2024. We had the honor to escort Strickland from DIA to his final resting place in Florence, Colorado. All who attended this historical event were proud and emotional.



2023/2024 All American	2024 Spring Sweepstakes Winners
<p>Department Commander - John Keene</p> <p>District 5 Commander - Travis Baker</p> <p>VFW Posts in the Top 50 of their Division</p> <p>VFW Post 1 Denver - Commander Brittany Bartges</p> <p>VFW Post 2788 Penrose - Commander James Sheridan</p> <p>VFW Post 3981 Grand Junction - Commander Leonard Ladue</p> <p>VFW Post 5231 Cortez - Commander Tommy Endres</p> <p>VFW Posts Not in the Top 50 of their Division</p> <p>VFW Post 41 Loveland - Commander Mark Lyons</p> <p>VFW Post 101 Colorado Springs - Commander Danielle Depaolis</p> <p>VFW Post 2585 Johnstown - Commander Damien Berg</p> <p>VFW Post 3917 Security - Commander Page Gilmore</p> <p>VFW Post 4061 Canon City - Commander Joshua Caverzagie</p> <p>VFW Post 4265 Craig - Commander Jesse Larsen</p> <p>VFW Post 6461 Fountain - Commander Aarron Himes</p> <p>VFW Post 6624 Evans - Commander Mark Martens</p> <p>VFW Post 7829 Monument - Commander Rodney Fetterman</p> <p>VFW Post 9644 Ft Logan - Commander Todd Van Sant</p> <p>VFW post 12226 Sterling - Commander Thomas Stewart</p> <p>CONGRATULATIONS!</p>	<p>1st Place: Carl A. Helms Thornton \$2,500</p> <p>2nd Place: Thomas Keenan CO Springs \$1,000</p> <p>3rd Place: Jimmy Quirico Alamosa \$500</p> <p>4th Place: Alexander Griffin Grand Junction \$300</p> <p>5th Place: Michael Woods Elizabeth \$200</p> <p>6th Place: Kimberly Coward Divide \$100</p> <p>7th Place: Darwin Hyden Northglenn \$100</p> <p>8th Place: Sandra Mylet Aurora \$100</p> <p>9th Place: Allen Lenort Longmont \$100</p> <p>10th Place: J.P. Maldonado Chandler, AZ \$100</p> <p>CONGRATULATIONS!</p>

VFW Department of Colorado - Fund Assistance

The VFW Department of Colorado Foundation has gone through some changes again. We have new administrative staff and have gotten back into a deal with the Veteran's Trust Fund. All grant applications will come to VFW Department of Colorado Headquarters. The amount has not changed, we will still grant up to \$500 on a one-time basis for emergencies. The application and requirements will be on the VFW Department of Colorado website.

The Department of Colorado also has the Ralph W. Emerson/Jack Gulden Memorial Blood/Cancer Fund. The application may apply once every 12 months with a lifetime maximum of 2 times for a grant of \$500 to cover out of pocket expenses. The application must be a current member of the VFW or it's auxiliary and must include their member number, and auxiliary members must include a copy of their membership card. This fund covers acceptable receipted expenses for the following: treatments such a chemo, radiation, surgical and any other medical procedure concerning cancer treatments; blood work, including transfusions, platelet infusions, transplants, and any other procedure concerning blood; travel receipts will be accepted in the form of fuel receipts only. For more information please see the Department of Colorado Website.

The last fund that the VFW Department of Colorado offers is the Katy Rimpley Service Animal Assistance Fund. The applicant may apply once every 12 months for a grant of \$500 to help cover out of pocket expenses for pet insurance, veterinary appointments/treatments/inoculations, and pet food. The application must be a current member of the VFW or it's auxiliary and must include their member number, and auxiliary members must include a copy of their membership card. Receipts MUST accompany the grant application. Please see the Department of Colorado website for more information.

Our funds are fairly stable currently but all donations are greatly appreciated to continue to be able to serve our veterans and their families. All donations are tax deductible.

If you have any questions please call Department Headquarters at 303-421-1630.

2024-2025 Student Themes

Voice of Democracy: "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Patriot Pen: "My Voice in America's Democracy"

ALL-AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS

Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, VMS donation minimum \$125 in OMS, Buddy Poppies minimum 500, Community Service for all 4 quarters, 102% Membership

Council of Administration Weekend

August 24-25, 2024

Hosted by Montezuma County VFW Post 5231
Saturday VFW meets at Elks Lodge 1789, 2100 Dolores Rd, Cortez, CO 81321

Auxiliary meets at Montezuma County Annex Building, 107 N Chestnut St, Cortez, CO 81321

Sunday Post & Auxiliary meet at Montezuma County Annex Building

(More information available: [Events \(vfvco.org\)](https://www.vfvco.org))

2023-2024 State Convention Awards

Joint Program Awards

- Legislative
 - Barbara Green, VFW Post 4051 & Aux
 - Stanley Graffis, VFW Post 2121 & Aux
- Hospital
 - Class 1 - 1st - VFW Post 6612
 - Class 1 - 2nd - VFW Post 9304
 - Class 1 - 3rd - VFW Post 3571
 - Class 2 - 1st - VFW Post 9221
 - Class 2 - 2nd - VFW Post 5221
 - Class 2 - 3rd - VFW Post 322 & Aux
 - Class 3 - 1st - VFW Post 3981 & Aux
 - Class 3 - 2nd - VFW Post 7829
 - Class 3 - 3rd - VFW Post 2121 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 1st - VFW Post 9644 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 2nd - VFW Post 7945 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 3rd - VFW Post 6461 & Aux
 - Class 5 - 1st - VFW Post 4051
 - Class 5 - 2nd - VFW Post 3917 & Aux
 - Class 5 - 3rd - VFW Post 1 & Aux
- Citizenship Education
 - Class 1 - 1st - VFW Post 11411
 - Class 1 - 2nd - VFW Post 4281
 - Class 1 - 3rd - VFW Post 5843
 - Class 2 - 1st - VFW Post 2411
 - Class 2 - 2nd - VFW Post 9221
 - Class 2 - 3rd - VFW Post 3378
 - Class 3 - 1st - VFW Post 4331
 - Class 3 - 2nd - VFW Post 3981
 - Class 3 - 3rd - VFW Post 2121 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 1st - VFW Post 4171 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 2nd - VFW Post 6461 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 3rd - VFW Post 9644 & Aux
 - Class 5 - 1st - VFW Post 1 & Aux
 - Class 5 - 2nd - VFW Post 101
 - Class 5 - 3rd - VFW Post 4051
- Community Service
 - Class 1 - 1st - VFW Post 11411
 - Class 1 - 2nd - VFW Post 3411
 - Class 1 - 3rd - VFW Post 5181
 - Class 2 - 1st - VFW Post 9221
 - Class 2 - 2nd - VFW Post 3641
 - Class 2 - 3rd - VFW Post 5221
 - Class 3 - 1st - VFW Post 6624
 - Class 3 - 2nd - VFW Post 3981
 - Class 3 - 3rd - VFW Post 5812 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 1st - VFW Post 4031
 - Class 4 - 2nd - VFW Post 9644
 - Class 4 - 3rd - VFW Post 6461
 - Class 5 - 1st - VFW Post 3917
 - Class 5 - 2nd - VFW Post 4051
 - Class 5 - 3rd - VFW Post 101
- Military Assistance
 - Class 1 - 1st - VFW Post 4281
 - Class 1 - 2nd - VFW Post 7305
 - Class 1 - 3rd - VFW Post 4671
 - Class 2 - 1st - VFW Post 3378
 - Class 2 - 2nd - VFW Post 3541
 - Class 2 - 3rd - VFW Post 12009
 - Class 3 - 1st - VFW Post 3981
 - Class 3 - 2nd - VFW Post 7829
 - Class 3 - 3rd - VFW Post 2121 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 1st - VFW Post 9644 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 2nd - VFW Post 6461 & Aux
 - Class 4 - 3rd - VFW Post 4061 & Aux
 - Class 5 - 1st - VFW Post 4051
 - Class 5 - 2nd - VFW Post 101 & Aux
 - Class 5 - 3rd - VFW Post 3917 & Aux
- Buddy Poppy
 - Top Overall Posts
 - VFW Post 5231
 - VFW Post 2788
 - VFW Post 3981
 - Top Overall Districts
 - District 10
 - District 2
 - District 3
 - Most Buddy Poppy Activities - Post

• VFW Post 1 & Aux	• VFW Post 12009
• VFW Post 2788	• VFW Post 5843
• VFW Post 2121	• VFW Post 9644
• VFW Post 12226	• VFW Post 3981
• VFW Post 7829	• VFW Post 5231
• VFW Post 2411	• VFW Post 6612
• VFW Post 899	

Distinguished Awards:

- JROTC Cadet of the Year - Wyatt Baugess
- VFW Member of the Year - Samuel Wybenga, Post 1
- Distinguished Citizenship Award - Stephen Cote
- Employer of the Year - Arion Systems, Inc
- Distinguished Patriotic Award - Marsha Harrison, Aux 1
- Distinguished Service Award - Bruce Dolan, Post 7945

Teacher of the Year:

- K-5 - Gail Gess (VFW Post 9644 & Aux.)
- 6-8 - Leonard E. Tardiff III (VFW Post 7829 & Aux)
- 9-12 - Crystal Proffitt (Post 5181 & Aux)

Voice of Democracy Winner - Noah Lorenz (VFW Post 4171 & Aux)

Patriot Pen Winner - Aarna Dhawan (VFW Post 807)

Boy Scout of the Year - Sawyer Cass (VFW post 4666)

VFW Correctional Officer of the Year - Captain Carol Thomas

VFW Firefighter of the Year - Fire Captain Richard Valdez

Chaplain of the Year - Robert Derrera (VFW Post 9644 & Aux)

Auxiliary State Convention Awards

- All State Achievement
 - Auxiliary 1
 - Auxiliary 899
 - Auxiliary 1771
 - Auxiliary 2121
 - Auxiliary 2601
 - Auxiliary 3631
 - Auxiliary 3917
 - Auxiliary 4171
 - Auxiliary 6624
 - Auxiliary 7829
 - Auxiliary 7945
 - Auxiliary 8121
 - Auxiliary 11411
 - District 1, District 8, District 10
- Americanism
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 5843
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 859
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 5181
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 7829
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 3981
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 11411
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 5231
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 322
 - Group 3 - 3rd - Aux 3571
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 2121
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 2411
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 4031
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 1
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 3917
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 6624
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 7945
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 1771
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 9644
- Auxiliary Outreach
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 5843
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 5181
 - Group 1 - 3rd - No Entry
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 2788
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 899
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 5812
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 5231
 - Group 3 - 2nd - No Entry
 - Group 3 - 3rd - No Entry
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 3631
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 8121
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 4031
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 1
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 6624
 - Group 5 - 3rd - No Entry
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 1771
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 9644
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 4171
- Buddy Poppy/National Home
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 12009
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 4671
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 12189
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 3981
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 6612
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 7829
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 5231
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 3571
 - Group 3 - 3rd - Aux 1247
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 4031
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 2121
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 2411
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 5061
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 6624
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 3917
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 9644
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 1771
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 4171
- COS - Extension/Revitalization
 - Aux 1 • Aux 8121
 - Aux 41 • Aux 8898
 - Aux 101 • Aux 9221
 - Aux 322 • Aux 9644
 - Aux 336 • Aux 11411
 - Aux 1247
 - Aux 1771
 - Aux 1781
 - Aux 2121
 - Aux 2411
 - Aux 2585
 - Aux 2601
 - Aux 2788
 - Aux 3411
 - Aux 3541
 - Aux 3571
 - Aux 3641
 - Aux 3981
 - Aux 4031
 - Aux 4051
 - Aux 4061
 - Aux 4171
 - Aux 4265
 - Aux 4671
 - Aux 5061
 - Aux 5181
 - Aux 5221
 - Aux 5231
 - Aux 5812
 - Aux 6612
 - Aux 6624
 - Aux 7305
 - Aux 7829
 - Aux 7945
- Historian/Social Media
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 5181
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 9374
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 12189
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 3981
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 2788
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 899
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 5231
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 3641
 - Group 3 - 3rd - Aux 3541
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 2121
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 2411
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 41
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 1
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 6624
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 6461
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 7945
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 9644
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 1771
- Hospital
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 7305
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 3411
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 12009
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 3981
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 7829
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 6612
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 322
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 2585
 - Group 3 - 3rd - Aux 1247
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 8121
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 4031
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 3631
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 1
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 6624
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 3917
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 9644
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 7945
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 1771
- Legislative
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 3411
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 5181
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 12189
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 7829
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 5812
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 11411
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 5231
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 3571
 - Group 3 - 3rd - No Entry
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 2411
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 4031
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 3631
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 1
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 5061
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 3917
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 1771
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 9644
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 7945

Aux Convention Awards (Continued)

- 100% Membership Auxiliaries
 - Auxiliary 1
 - Auxiliary 41
 - Auxiliary 322
 - Auxiliary 501
 - Auxiliary 859
 - Auxiliary 899
 - Auxiliary 1247
 - Auxiliary 1771
 - Auxiliary 2121
 - Auxiliary 2411
 - Auxiliary 2585
 - Auxiliary 2788
 - Auxiliary 3411
 - Auxiliary 3571
 - Auxiliary 3631
 - Auxiliary 3917
 - Auxiliary 3981
 - Auxiliary 4031
 - Auxiliary 4051
 - Auxiliary 4171
 - Auxiliary 4264
 - Auxiliary 4265
 - Auxiliary 4671
 - Auxiliary 5061
 - Auxiliary 5181
 - Auxiliary 5221
 - Auxiliary 5812
 - Auxiliary 5843
 - Auxiliary 6461
 - Auxiliary 6612
 - Auxiliary 7305
 - Auxiliary 7829
 - Auxiliary 7945
 - Auxiliary 8121
 - Auxiliary 9221
 - Auxiliary 9374
 - Auxiliary 9644
 - Auxiliary 11411
 - Auxiliary 12009
 - District 1
 - District 2
 - District 3
 - District 4
 - District 5
 - District 6
 - District 7
 - District 8
 - District 9
 - District 10
 - District 11
 - District 12
 - District 13
- Membership
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 9374
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 7305
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 5843
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 4265
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 2788
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 11411
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 2585
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 3571
 - Group 3 - 3rd - Aux 322
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 4031
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 2411
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 2121
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 5061
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 1
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 6461
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 9644
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 4051
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 1771
- Mentorship for Leadership
 - Aux 1
 - Aux 1771
 - Aux 1781
 - Aux 2121
 - Aux 4051
 - Aux 4171
 - Aux 6624
 - Aux 7945
 - Aux 8121
 - Aux 9374
 - Aux 11411
- Scholarship
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 5843
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 12189
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 3411
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 7829
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 9221
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 899
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 2585
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 3571
 - Group 3 - 3rd - Aux 5231
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 2121
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 8121
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 2411
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 3917
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 6461
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 1
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 7945
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 4171
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 9644
- Veteran & Family Support
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 4671
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 3411
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 7305
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 7829
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 3981
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 5812
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 3641
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 1247
 - Group 3 - 3rd - Aux 5231
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 2411
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 3631
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 8121
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 6461
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 3917
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 1
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 9644
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 1771
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 7945
- Youth Activities
 - Group 1 - 1st - Aux 3411
 - Group 1 - 2nd - Aux 12189
 - Group 1 - 3rd - Aux 12009
 - Group 2 - 1st - Aux 11411
 - Group 2 - 2nd - Aux 7829
 - Group 2 - 3rd - Aux 6612
 - Group 3 - 1st - Aux 3571
 - Group 3 - 2nd - Aux 5231
 - Group 3 - 3rd - Aux 2585
 - Group 4 - 1st - Aux 3631
 - Group 4 - 2nd - Aux 4331
 - Group 4 - 3rd - Aux 2121
 - Group 5 - 1st - Aux 6624
 - Group 5 - 2nd - Aux 3917
 - Group 5 - 3rd - Aux 6461
 - Group 6 - 1st - Aux 9644
 - Group 6 - 2nd - Aux 1771
 - Group 6 - 3rd - Aux 4171



Auxiliary Student Scholarships

- **Get Excited for the Red, White & Blue**
 - K to 8 Grade
 - 1st Place Brynlee Stum Sponsored by Auxiliary 6612
 - 2nd Place Balli Morrell Sponsored by Auxiliary 3917
 - 9 to 12 Grade
 - 1st Place Ashton Neighbors Sponsored by Auxiliary 5231
 - 2nd Place Alias Timms Sponsored by Auxiliary 3917
- **Illustrating America**
 - K to 2 Grade
 - 1st Place Cohen Holman Sponsored by Auxiliary 6624
 - 2nd Place Sofia Beauprez Sponsored by Auxiliary 1
 - 3rd Place Angelique Hutchins Sponsored by Auxiliary 3917
 - 3 to 5 Grade
 - 1st Place Avery Garcia Sponsored by Auxiliary 5231
 - 2nd Place Adelyn Wright Sponsored by Auxiliary 6624
 - 3rd Place MacKenzie Stone Sponsored by Auxiliary 5231
 - 6 to 8 Grade
 - 1st Place Hadley Luce Sponsored by Auxiliary 1
 - 2nd Place Samuel Order Sponsored by Auxiliary 7945
 - 3rd Place Samantha Sanchez Sponsored by Auxiliary 5231
- **Creative Patriotic Art**
 - 1st Place Zoe Eastburn Sponsored by Auxiliary 1
 - 2nd Place Nandana Kannaiyan Sponsored by Auxiliary 7945
 - 3rd Place Sarah Garner Sponsored by Auxiliary 322
- **Outstanding Youth Group of the Year**
 - Boy Scout Troop 89 Colorado Springs Sponsored by Auxiliary 3917

Community Alert: Support Needed for the Honor Bell Foundation

The Honor Bell Foundation's van was recently involved in an unfortunate accident, resulting in significant damage. This vehicle is a vital asset for the Foundation, enabling us to transport the Honor Bell to over 1300 services annually. The van's replacement has been purchased but expenses exceed insurance coverage.

The Honor Bell Foundation has dedicated itself to honoring and commemorating the sacrifices made by our heroes through ceremonies and services. Each ringing of the Honor Bell is a powerful tribute, bringing comfort and recognition to families and communities. With the loss of our van, we were unable to fulfill over 250 scheduled services, impacting countless individuals and families who rely on this meaningful tradition.

We are reaching out to our compassionate community, asking for your support to help us with expenses incurred in replacing the damaged van and continue our mission. Your monetary contributions, no matter the size, will directly aid covering expenses of the vehicle, ensuring we can continue our essential work without further interruption.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate:** Every donation brings us closer to our goal. Please consider contributing through our website or by mailing a check to our office
- **Spread the Word:** Share this message with your network. The more people who know, the faster we can reach our goal.
- **Volunteer:** If you have ideas or resources to assist in our fundraising efforts, we would love to hear from you.

We deeply appreciate your continued support and understanding during this challenging time. Together, we can ensure the Honor Bell continues to resonate with the respect and recognition our heroes deserve.

Thank you for standing with us.

GoFundMe Donations

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-honor-bell-foundation-get-back-on-the-road?utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link&utm_campaign=fp_sharesheet&utm_content=amp1c&lang=en_US



VFW Elects Al Lipphardt as New National Commander

Alfred "Al" Lipphardt, a Georgia native and veteran of the Vietnam War, was elected today as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a congressionally chartered veterans service organization comprised of more than 1.4 million eligible veterans and military service members from all six branches of the armed forces. Lipphardt's assumption of command took place during the VFW's 125th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I am deeply humbled to stand before you today having been elected and installed to the highest office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, commander-in-chief," said Lipphardt. "Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, the founders from the Spanish American War followed by World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and deployments placing you between the weapons of our enemies and these shores."

Approximately 10,000 members of the VFW and its Auxiliary converged on the city to conduct the business of the organization, recognize individuals and organizations for excellence and to elect new leadership for the 2024–2025 year. The last time the VFW held its national convention in Louisville was 2013.

In his address, Lipphardt gave his vision for the year, which he deems "Operation All In," calling on all levels of the organization to embrace courage and the warrior spirit that sets the VFW apart as the oldest and largest combat veterans organization.

"Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts are some of the very few places where heroes gather, and warriors meet," said Lipphardt. "Too many people in this nation have forgotten what it is to be a warrior. Heroes are what others think of us. Warriors are who we are."

Throughout Lipphardt's speech, he reflected on those he served with in the Army, veterans within his family, and how they influenced his life. A solemn moment came when he spoke the names of the ones he lost during the Vietnam War.

"Pvt. Lewis Sloan of East Point, Georgia, Cpl. Kenneth Adams of Santa Clara, California, Cpl. Philip Adams of Croton Falls, New York, Robert Waddell of Batavia, Ohio, and Rodney Loatman of Newark, New Jersey." said Lipphardt. "These men served under my command when they paid the ultimate price for freedom. I promised myself, those who gave their full measure of devotion would be honored for their service and sacrifice by saying their names whenever I had an opportunity."

Lipphardt's remarks harkened back to core tenants of the VFW, as well as its stated vision – ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

"I have only been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for 20 years, but I have seen too many members who have forgotten our roots," said Lipphardt. "Whatever the branch, whatever the military specialty, or whenever the conflict, let us never forget those who no longer have a voice."

Lipphardt joined the VFW in 2002 when he became a charter member of VFW Post 12002 in North Fulton, Georgia. He later transferred his Gold Legacy Life membership to his current post VFW Post 2667 in Newnan, Georgia. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of Georgia commander from 2014 to 2015, in which he achieved Triple Crown All-American commander status. On the national level, he has served on the Legislative Committee, the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Council of Administration.

"You and I know membership is more than about numbers," said Lipphardt. "We are not numbers, we are people. I am proud to share with my community – I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars."

Much of Lipphardt's remarks after being installed as commander-in-chief emphasized a commitment to values and valuing service to the nation. He also spoke about the importance of integrity within the organization.

"If your word is not to be trusted, everything and anything you do is unreliable. You can't be called on nor can you be counted on," said Lipphardt. "There is no place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars for these individuals."

In addition to Lipphardt, other national officers elected were Carol Whitmore, an Iraq War veteran from the Department of Iowa, as senior vice commander-in-chief, and Timothy Peters, a Persian Gulf War veteran from the Department of Montana, as junior vice commander-in-chief. The final day of the convention also saw Adjutant General Dan West and Quartermaster General Marc Garduno reconfirmed in their positions.

"My ask is for you to embrace the vision of courage," said Lipphardt. "Rekindle the warrior's fire in your belly. Put that vision into action. I am proud to lead you, as together, we seek the courage to be the best we can be in all things and at all times.

"Believe in what you do – do what you believe in."

Lipphardt and his wife of more than 57 years, Carol Lipphardt, are retired and reside in Stone Mountain, Georgia.



Final Deposition for All Resolutions and Amendments Voted on By Delegates

Congressional Charter

Out of Order: C1

National Bylaws

Approved: B5 & B16

Rejected: B4, B6 - B15 & B17 - B20

Out of Order: B1, B3

Withdrawn in lieu of CIC Resolution No. 204: B2

Manual of Procedure

Approved: M2

Rejected: M4, M5 & M7 - M14

Out of Order: M3, M6

Withdrawn in lieu of CIC Resolution No. 204: M1

Ritual

Approved: R1

Rejected: R2 - R4

Finance & Internal Organization (200 Series)

Approved: None

Rejected: 201 - 204

General (300 Series)

Approved: None

Rejected: 303

Out of Order: 301 & 302

National Security & Foreign Affairs (400 Series)

Approved: 401 - 407, 411 - 416, 418 & 419

Rejected: 408, 417 & 420

Subcommittee on POW/MIA

Approved: 409 & 410

Out of Order: 421

Veterans Service (600 Series)

Approved: 601, 602, 604 - 633, 635, 637 & 647

Approved as Amended: 603 & 634

Rejected: 636, 638 - 646 & 648

You can access the results by logging in to vfw.org. Once on the "My VFW" page you will scroll down to the first link under "Member/Post Resources" named "125th National Convention Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Amendments and all National Resolutions Results." **OR** Navigate to the Document Repository located in OMS and select the folder named "125th National Convention Bylaws/Manual of Procedure/Ritual Amendments & Convention Resolutions - RESULTS."

Colorado Representing at the National Patriotic Parade



VFW Department of Colorado Commander Carol Thomas received the National Distinguished Fraternal Award



VFW Department of Colorado State Commander, Carol Thomas, State Jr Vice Commander, Todd Van Sant; State Surgeon, James Sheridan, & Administrative Assistant, Rachel Rodgers participated in the Vander Clute Memorial Motorcycle Ride. The Ride started at Churchill Downs Post 2921, with stops at VFW Post 1181, VFW Post 5710, VFW Post 5710, and the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall. There were 72 motorcycles that participated in the ride. It was an amazing experience by all that participated.



VFW Department of Colorado Past Commander John Keene kicked off his campaign for Commander-in-Chief at Angel's Envy



Attention all BBQ fanatics! Get ready for the can't-miss event of the year - the Kansas City BBQ Society Pitmaster Contest at the Douglas County Fair Grounds on September 6-7. With an incredible \$10,000 prize money purse up for grabs, this is a competition you won't want to miss.

But this event is about more than just mouth-watering, award-winning BBQ. We're also coming together for a great cause - to raise funds for the VFWCO Katie Rimpley Veteran Service Animal Assistance Fund. The Service Animal Fund is an incredible as it provides assistance to our veterans, empowering them to live more independent and fulfilling lives.

By supporting the KCBS contest, through sponsorship you'll help support a wonderful charity that makes a real difference in the lives of our brave service members.

Email KCBS Board of Director Rick@smokintimbers.com for sponsorship request

Veteran Service Organizations can have booth space at the event – email steve@vfwco.org to make it happen!

Visit <https://www.vfwbbq.com/> for more information.





Auxiliary News



Published by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Colorado

Rachel Rodgers, Auxiliary News Chairman



Nadia Flores
Auxiliary State
President

Hello, My Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

It is an honor to be serving as your Department President for the 2024-2025 year. I want to thank every active service member and veteran, especially those who are members of my family, that have taken the Oath of Enlistment and sacrificed much for our country. Without them, we would not be able to enjoy our lives as we do today.

Thank you to all the members of the VFW Auxiliary and VFW, that have mentored and guided me along my auxiliary journey, and to everyone who continues to mentor and guide me. The friendships I have made and the lessons I have been taught have shaped, and continue to shape, my journey with the VFW Auxiliary and all that I know can be done to help our service members and veterans. A huge thank you to my husband, William – who is always by my side even when I take him on crazy adventures, thank you to my children, Jacob and Meredith – who have been to many meetings, COAs, Conventions, and events with me, thank you to my parents, Chris and Rowena – who have always encouraged and supported me, as well as had many weekends of grandparent duty to help with my children so we could attend many VFW & Auxiliary functions, thank you to my siblings, Holly, Twila and Christopher – who are always there to lend a hand when I need to

be crafty, or a shoulder when things have me down, thank you to my mother-in-law and father-in-law, Chris and Cathy Flores – who have attended and helped with many events as members of the auxiliary and who have also had many weekends where they have taken on grandparent duty so that we could attend VFW & Auxiliary functions, and many thanks to the Past Department Presidents and to many of the National Line Officers who have given words of encouragement and advice throughout the last few years.

As many of you already know, I have a passion for helping others, and do so in all aspects of my life, both through my career and in all my volunteering. My special project this year will be a combined special project with VFW Commander Carol Thomas. The project we have chosen is that of the White Ribbon. The White Ribbon is one that focuses on awareness and prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence. This project is very near and dear to my heart and I believe that any individual, veteran or not, should never have to go through their journey of healing alone, as it takes tremendous courage to even speak up about these topics, much less voice that it is happening to them. Funds that are raised for the project will go to a specified program through the IPVAP (Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program), called "*Equine-imity*," within the Rocky Mountain Regional VA that partners with equine healing and will be used to help survivors on their journey to recovery. The program recognizes that veterans face many unique issues and challenges in their road to healing, and sometimes that means thinking outside the box of traditional approaches of counseling.

The project that has been chosen will tie into my theme for this year, which is "**All Veterans, All Voices**," as the VFW and its Auxiliary is one voice for veterans when we need those in Washington D.C. to take notice of what our veterans need, but in our own home areas we need to recognize that each veteran that we come across is unique and has their own story. For each of us to be able to help them to the best of our abilities, we need to listen to their stories and their voices, or we may miss something important.

I am so excited for this coming year, and to be working alongside our Commander, to continue growing the relationship between the VFW & Auxiliary, and to foster great relationships between the Auxiliaries and membership throughout the state. I thank each and every one of you for all of the hard work and dedication you put into caring for our veterans. Even the smallest acts of kindness can change the world, and that is what each of you do every day and every time you help our veterans, active military personnel, and their families. Again, I am so honored and humbled to be serving as your Auxiliary Department President for the next year, and I cannot wait to see all that each auxiliary has in store to make the year a successful one!

Warmest Wishes,

Nadia Flores
Department VFW Auxiliary President

All-State Achievement

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

I would like to thank Madame Department President Nadia for appointing me as the All State Achievement Chairman and appointing an awesome Committee to work with. The Committee members that are also helping with this program are Charlotte Lattin and Gayle Stockwell. We are very honored to be the Committee for the All State Achievement Program.

The goals we have for the All State Achievement Program are:

- 1) All Auxiliaries and Districts are eligible to earn All State Achievement recognition.
- 2) Help grow and improve Auxiliaries and Districts by completing tasks on the report.

The report is meant to reward **ALL** Auxiliaries and Districts that are completing tasks that are required in the VFW Auxiliary By-laws. Other tasks on the form are meant to build a stronger Auxiliary through communication, training and working together. Examples are completing these tasks on time, installation reports, audits, purchasing bonds, filing the IRS 990 form, delegate forms and officer dues paid. Other tasks that are in the report that we feel will help improve the Auxiliary or District are attending the Council of Administration weekends to share program information/updates and other Department information. Another task in the report will be membership goals. Recruiting and retaining members are both important factors in keeping this great organization strong and viable for many years to come. There will also be bonus points available. There will be **no** set number of Auxiliaries or Districts that qualify and receive All State Achievement. It will **not** be Auxiliaries and Districts competing against each other for this recognition. Finally, to make the report simpler, we are encouraging the President, Secretary and Treasurer to work together filling out this report. It will be less stressful and time consuming, so more time can be spent taking care of our Veterans. The one-page All State Achievement Report that gives Auxiliaries and Districts points earned for completed tasks will be available on the website, vfwco.org and in the 2024-2025 Colorado Program Book.

Those Auxiliaries and Districts will earn All State Achievement that:

- 1) Reach the minimum points required by completing tasks.
- 2) Have submitted the All State Report by the deadline.
- 3) The report is signed by the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

So come on Colorado, let's get busy creating new memories and working together for "All Veterans, All Voices".

Patsy Gilmore – Chairman
Charlotte Lattin
Gayle Stockwell
All State Achievement Committee

Americanism

Hello to all Colorado VFW Auxiliary members. My name is Marilyn Peters. I want to thank Dept. VFW Aux. President, Nadia Flores, for honoring me to be 2024-2025 Dept. Americanism Chairperson. I look forward to meeting all of you at our events thru the year and hearing all about your ways of sharing Americanism in the VFW Aux. way!!

This year is a presidential election year. Schools, community centers, clubs, patriotic organizations will all have the bright spotlight on Americanism – our rights and more importantly our privileges. Our veterans, our deployed, our military families all work and sacrifice to protect our freedoms – November – our very right to vote as we choose. This provides numerous opportunities to educate, instruct, honor our USA flag, the most recognized country's flag in the world, our pledge of allegiance, preamble to our constitution, our entire constitution, and , we must educate our brothers and sisters. Enter...our Patriotic Instructors. The sole and most important job for all Patriotic Instructors is all the schools of instruction presented at our auxiliary meetings, our District meetings and our Dept. meetings.

I want you to know, any activity you participate in of these events and activities within our VFWs or any other organizations must and needs to be reported. As long as you do not receive payment for your participation, I want to loudly say...please report it! I intend to visit post/auxiliary Americanism programs throughout Colorado, to observe, encourage, and share via Facebook, Instagram, emails. To be able to complete my goal, I need you to invite me to your Americanism events. I will attend as many events as I am able this year.

Our National Ambassador, Katlyn Burke, of Greenville, Texas, will hear about you, see your pictures. My job is to share your amazing works in Americanism in this great state of Colorado during 2024-2025 year. I remain your biggest cheerleader.

Marilyn Peters
Americanism Chairman



Auxiliary Outreach

Greetings all my Auxiliary friends!

First of all, I would like to thank President Nadia Flores for having faith in me and allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Auxiliary Outreach Chairman again this year. This program has always been around, National has just changed the name and added a few requirements to the program. Our organization has always been active in our communities, we just need to remember to report it differently. Summer is here and all organizations are holding events. Like us, many organizations are short on volunteers, so if we all join forces and work together, just imagine what great things we can accomplish! The VFW Auxiliary Outreach Program involves your Auxiliary volunteering to help other non-profit organizations, local groups and others with needs in your community. Auxiliary Outreach is time given to help, not monetary or in-kind donations. It is a partnership wherein one or more of your Auxiliary or Post members help another organization or group make their project successful.

Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help the community, not what they can do to help us! Form a partnership to help other organizations by reaching out into your communities, local groups and organizations and offer to assist,

Where does your Auxiliary find these partnership opportunities?

- Ask your Auxiliary members: Most members belong to more than one organization.
- Look in your local newspaper for upcoming events.
- Check local community bulletin boards.
- Check your local and surrounding town/city websites for their calendar of events.

Suggestions for VFW Auxiliary Outreach

- Work with local police, fire and EMT on their activities (Child ID, fire safety and fire prevention activities at the local schools.)
- Work with local parks and recreation departments to plant trees, clear trails and beautify parks.
- Serve food at soup kitchens or distribute food at food banks/cupboards.
- Drive for Meals on Wheels to help prepare food for delivery.
- Assist with local fundraising walks as a volunteer, not an entrant.
- Help your local library by working at book fairs.
- Assist local youth activities and at senior centers.
- Help during your local town or city during elections by remain non-partisan.
- Partnerships can be a single day event or ongoing events throughout the year.

Benefits of the Auxiliary Outreach Program

- Helping others
- Learn new skills
- Meeting new people & possibly get new Auxiliary members
- Developing a sense of purpose
- Fighting stress and depression by getting involved
- Developing a stronger sense of purpose
- Personal growth

Keys to making your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful

- Find organizations that need your help
- Make a list of the organizations your Auxiliary wants to help and then do a blanket vote so if and when an opportunity comes up between meetings, your Auxiliary can participate
- One or more Auxiliary member(s) must participate
- Wear your VFW Auxiliary attire (name badge, shirt, hat, jacket, etc.)

Report, report, report your hours volunteered

I know all of our Auxiliaries are busy in our communities, helping other organizations. Our participation with other organizations will show the importance of the local VFW and Auxiliary to the community! Nadia has asked that we continue to share stories about our activities in our communities at our COA meetings. So PLEASE, PLEASE report what you are doing and tell me what made your event with another organization a success. Use the note section to tell us what you did, how you participated and any fun things that happened. We want to learn from you what made the event a success so we can steal your ideas and make our events better! I look forward to hearing from each and every auxiliary with lots of exciting and fun stories. I can be reached at qbarz@hotmail.com or by phone 970-749-9320. If I don't answer, please leave me a message and I will return your call.

See you all at COA in Cortez in August!!

Queenie Barz
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

Buddy Poppy

I want to thank Department Nadia Flores for asking me to be the program chair for the Buddy Poppy and VFW National Home for Children for the 2024-2025 year.

The “Buddy”® Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW community for 100 years. The “Buddy”® Poppy is worn as a gesture of respect to honor the valor and sacrifice of those who have laid down their lives for the country.

When you are ready to hold a “Buddy”® Poppy drive be sure you order your Poppies from the Department VFW and allow enough time for delivery. There are now two options of “Buddy”® Poppy, they are the traditional “Buddy”® Poppy and a metal “Buddy”® Poppy. The new metal poppy is nice for a collar or suit jacket.

In addition to a “Buddy”® Poppy drive, there are many creative ways to distribute the “Buddy”® Poppy including window displays, posters, wreaths, remembrance walls, hats, event centerpieces, etc. Let your imagination run wild!

VFW National Home

On January 7, 2024 the VFW National Home will turn 100 years old! It is time to join the **CELEBRATION!** The VFW National Home was the **FIRST** National Program for the VFW Auxiliary.

During this year, I ask Auxiliaries to take the time to **CELEBRATE**. I hope each Auxiliary will consider sending a birthday card to the VFW National Home in celebration of its 100th birthday. Please have the cards to the National Home by the beginning of January so they can be displayed for the birthday party. Instead of sending gifts for the traditional birthday party remember the VFW National Home has an Amazon Wish List with things they could use or your Auxiliary could make a donation to help with costs of the 100th celebration in June.

There are so many different ways to support the Home, including:

Over the course of the year, there will be many events and special things for the National Home and I hope Auxiliaries will participate and help in all of the celebrations. The biggest celebration will be held at an event on the National Home grounds in June 2025. For more information visit their website at <https://vfwnationalhome.org> or fall them on Facebook.

Kathy Kurtenbach
Buddy Poppy-VFW National Home Chairman

Hospital

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

Welcome to the start of a new year! I would like to thank President Nadia for asking me to be her Hospital Chair. I am looking forward to working with all of you, learning, and making this a very special year!

Please be on the lookout throughout the year for information from me. Look here in the veteran, attend COA's, provide your email so I can send you information, and peruse the national website for more resources. I'll provide lots of information on all four of our national goals, but I'm just going to start out with two here -

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support – As we all know, volunteers are vital to the success of everything that we do in the auxiliary. This year let us not only go out and try to find more people interested in serving veterans, but once we have them let us give them the recognition and support they deserve. This also goes for the volunteers we already have, whether they've been volunteering for a year or 30 years. I also want to clarify two things that I've seen cause some confusion in the past. One is that volunteers DO NOT have to be members, and the second is that the facilities you volunteer in can be non-VA facilities.

Women Veterans Health Care – Are you aware of all the resources that are available for women veterans when it comes to receiving health care tailored specifically to them? I know I'm not, and I'd ask that if you are, please share your knowledge with all of us! If you are not, please join me in fully researching and understanding this important issue so we will be well equipped to assist in any way possible. We also want to be sure this information reaches out women veterans, so start thinking now about possibly having a health fair or other ways to get the information out.

While these are just a couple of the goals we've been provided, please get creative, think outside of the box, and know that supporting our veterans through the hospital program has no limits! I look forward to working with you to come up with new ways to help bring a little light to someone's day. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, ideas or just need an ear to listen. My email is purpleseals@comcast.net and my phone number is 720-495-7773.

Loyally,

Brandi Dolan
Hospital Chairman

Historian & Social Media

Hello, My name is Josie Latham from Post #4031 in beautiful Durango Colorado. I am truly honored Colorado Department President Nadia Flores appointed me as Historian and Media Relations Chair.

I have been trying to figure a new exciting way to tell you all what the Historian Medial Relation does. Each Auxiliary is encouraged to record the great volunteerism and fun we have as Auxiliaries in our communities. Through the ease of social media, email and traditional means of communication, I look forward to seeing what each of your Auxiliaries are up to this year.

Our Auxiliary and Post #4031 share a Facebook and we work together to put out a quarterly newsletter. We also post in our local newspaper and take advantage of any free radio time we can.

Some suggestions to get started are

- Start a Facebook or Instagram Page and post often
- Take a lot of photos
 - ◊ Take special care to avoid closed eyes or open mouths
 - ◊ Avoid distracting objects or bad lighting
 - ◊ Avoid offensive language and images on clothing
- Make a PowerPoint with all of the photos taken, start a yearly scrapbook or 3 ring binder.

Record your Auxiliary History

It is important to document where we have been to remember where we are going. We learned from our history. The things we are doing today will assist the future generations.

I will be waiting for updates with all you are doing to show your community what the VFW and Auxiliary are about, and how no one does more for Veterans. Remember the 5 W's when posting or doing your reports. Who, When, Where, What and Why.

AWARDS for AUXILIARIES:

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding promotion of the VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through social media sources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources

AWARDS for DEPARTMENT and DEPARTMENT CHAIRS:

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best training/education on the use of social media sources to promote VFW Auxiliary Programs.

2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page 5 and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of Page 28. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

I am available to answer any questions, give guidance or bounce ideas off of. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns or if you simply want to chat at jvvl2502@gmail.com or call/ text me 970-317-5084

I look forward to meeting you,

Josie Latham
Historian/Media Relations Chairman

Chief of Staff - Extension & Revitalization

Thank you to Department President Nadia Flores for giving me the opportunity to be your Chief of Staff – Extension & Revitalization Chairman. As the Chief of Staff, it is my duty and responsibility to work with all District Auxiliary Presidents and Auxiliaries to assure that all auxiliaries are functioning in a proper manner. It is also my responsibility to work others on how to mentor or teach members our traditions, the Auxiliary bylaws, be a sounding board for the Department President and assist the Department Secretary on receiving any missing paperwork from Districts or Auxiliaries. I am extremely excited to see what this year holds for **ALL** of us. But most importantly, I can't wait to meet and work with as many members in our great state of Colorado this year!

Over the years I have heard members state that they wish Department would host a training on (insert a topic). With the help of Department President Flores and Department Secretary Ginna Rosa we are working out the details on how to make this happen. If you are interested to see what we come up with, then it is **highly suggested** you attend our first Council of Administration meeting this August.

All Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers – this year, it was decided to start a Chief of Staff email box it is:

DeptCOAux.ChiefofStaff@outlook.com. Any correspondence from the Chief of Staff will be coming from this email address. It is kindly requested that all correspondence to the Chief of Staff be sent to this email address as well. This way any and all information regarding auxiliaries is centrally located and can be passed forwarded to future Chief of Staff personnel.

As always if anyone has any questions, concerns, ideas, or just needs to talk please do not ever hesitate to reach out to me. Please continue to be kind, encourage, listen, respect, and work together to be the best auxiliaries!

See you soon!

Stephanee Trujillo
Department Chief of Staff

Legislative

The importance of the Legislative Program became extremely clear to me last year when I visited in person with our Senators and Representatives in Washington, DC along with the Colorado VFW and Auxiliary teams. What we say and do in our Auxiliaries DOES make a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families. Being aware of proposed and on-going legislation that affects Veterans, puts us at the center of keeping them well served and protected. It will be my mission this year to keep you on the leading edge of issues and legislation that you need to know about.

Here are some things that you can do to keep your members informed:

- Spend some time becoming familiar with the VFW Legislative Priority Goals. This important information, which is updated and released annually, will give you an overview of what the issues and areas of concern for Veterans are, and how the VFW is actively working to advocate for our Veteran community. Please go to: www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service A copy of this information is also available in MALTA Member Resources. Many of the things we do *relate directly* to legislative efforts that are underway with VFW and Auxiliary.
- If you have not already done so, sign up for Action Corps Weekly and ask your Auxiliary teammates to do the same. Respond to VFW Action Alerts and make sure that your members do the same. When you sign up, you will automatically be subscribed to the Weekly Newsletter which will keep you updated on the issues and events that you need to know about. You don't have to be an Auxiliary member to sign up – encourage friends, teachers, community members, and others to sign up also – they can help too !
- Watch TV News (as much as you can tolerate), listen to the radio, attend town hall meetings, vote in local and national elections, attend school board and other community events. Send letters to your legislators – Let your voice be heard ! Keep track of your time, your mileage, and your contributions, if applicable. Report this information through your Auxiliary. If you discover something that is important with respect to our Veterans and families within your community, send me a note so that I can let everyone know.
- One of my key subjects last year, and an issue that I spoke about all over our state, was combatting “Claim Sharks.” These legal firms prey on veterans and families by attempting to take large portions of benefits due them from settlements like PACT Act, Camp Lejune victims, extended Vietnam benefits, etc. Encourage anyone applying for benefits to **contact a VFW Veteran Service Officer first** before going to one of these law firms. More information and further updates will follow on this very important subject.

I really look forward to bringing you more action items and information throughout this year.

Phil Reinpold
Legislative Chairman

Membership

Greeting Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

I am so excited that I am your 2024-2025 Chairman for Membership. I would like to thank Department President Nadia Flores, for asking me to be the chairman this year and I am going to work as hard as I can to work together and to get our membership up to be 100% with every Auxiliary here in Colorado, (This past year we had 40 Auxiliaries at 100%). I know it is a big job for all Auxiliaries, but I am confident we can attain great membership among us all. I will be emailing, calling, and maybe even visiting to see how I can help any Auxiliary with their membership.

I will be “Branching out” to all Auxiliary members and “Leaf out” to our new members. We need to Branch out to our young people (Leaf’s) who are family, friends or persons to help our organization in membership. **How do we you ask? Here is a list with two Columns to think about and do:**

Column A =Family you KNOW will qualify

For as many as possible in Column A, commit to gifting a membership to them for their birthday or to celebrate a holiday or any special date.

Column B= Family who MAY qualify

This is your opportunity to reach out and reconnect with family who MAY qualify for membership, but you are unsure. Can you imagine how this would help your Auxiliary to reach that 100% goal with each of you recruiting ONE family member.

I will have a list of these important tools at our Council of Administration for you in August.

Remember to always follow up with anyone who is interested. Get their phone number, email address and reach out to them and always carry membership applications everywhere you go, as you may find someone to recruit and have them join.

The Awards for Membership for each Auxiliary consists of:

\$50.00 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% plus in Membership by June 30, 2025
VFW Auxiliary Drawing. Each Auxiliary that reaches 101% Plus by June 30, 2025, will be entered into a one-time drawing to receive \$500.00

At our Council of Administration in August, I will have all the Membership Awards on my Table so that each Auxiliary will be able to see how National and Departments awards are presented.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and Community. If you need to speak with me or just have questions, feel free to call me at 303-720-8806 or email me at: myboysmokey2020@gmail.com

Lucille Chavez
Membership Chairman

Scholarship

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

I would like to thank Department President Nadia Flores for appointing me as the Scholarship Chair for the 2024-2025 program year. I look forward to working with each one of you throughout this year! My number one goal for this year is to help auxiliaries to "Get the Word Out!" about our wonderful scholarship opportunities. We have many auxiliaries out there doing amazing things and want to make sure you are capturing what you are doing by ensuring that you are reporting your activities!

National Scholarship Ambassador, Dina Hudson, will be focusing on the following areas for the Scholarships Program: student participation, recipient recognition, community awareness, and increasing the Escrow Funds available for the Patriotic and 3-Dimensional Art Contests. These four areas will be included for each auxiliary, in my year-end report to National.

The National Promotions/Awards for auxiliaries for the Scholarships Program are the following:

Promotion: Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about the Scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

Award: Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

Below is a list of the contests that we need your help in promoting for this program year.

Continuing Education Scholarship Contest

Deadline: Due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2025

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (Two- dimensional art entries)

Deadline: Entries to Local Auxiliary – March 31, 2025

3-Dimensional Creative Patriotic Art Contest

Deadline: Entries to Local Auxiliary – March 31, 2025

2024-2025 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Theme: "My Voice in America's Democracy"

Deadline: Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31, 2024

2024-2025 Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

Theme: "Is America Today, Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Deadline: Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31, 2024

Applications and brochures with more information/ requirements for each contest are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships, in MALTA Membership Resources, or you may contact me directly for more information. I look forward to working with you in promoting these scholarship opportunities! Remember, the best way to ensure the continuing growth and support of our organization is by continuing to support and encourage our younger generations through these scholarship opportunities.

Sincerely,

Crystal Proffitt
Scholarship Chairman

Veteran & Family Support

Hello everyone and welcome to the new year! I am your Veterans and Family Support chairman this year. I want to thank Department Nadia Flores for asking me to do this chair, her theme for the year is "All Veterans, All Voices". The three top priorities for this year are: National Veterans Service Suicide Prevention, Childcare for active-duty service members, and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Please take a moment to go to the National website vfwauxiliary.org click on "What we do" and scroll down to "Veterans and Family Support". This is going to give details of all the wonderful stuff we do and are going to do this upcoming year.

Veterans and Military Support Programs we support and are set in place to assist our veterans and their families. They have and continue to do so much for us, these are little things we can do for them. We have National Veterans Service (NVS), Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, and the VFW "Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship".

We are also going to focus on Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness. There are warning signs we should be aware of along with resources to assist with. The Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available. There is also the new number 988. Also available are many resources to assist someone with mental health. Together let's change the stigma surrounding mental health!

I am excited to bring the members' information to the 1st COA in Cortez. Please plan to attend.

Christina (Tina) Lilly
Veterans and Family Support Chairman

Youth

Hello Auxiliary brothers and sisters,

My name is Rowena Martinez, and I am very honored that my daughter President Nadia Flores, asked me to serve as her Youth Activities Chair for 2024-2025.

This is an exciting year for me as I hope it will be for all Auxiliaries this year. Working with our youth is such an important key to our future. Helping them to understand more about the importance of our freedom and to be proud of our land we stand on. To see a child stand up and place their hand over their heart as our Flag is coming by in a parade is moment they are beginning to learn and want to know more. When you place a buddy poppy in their hand, they want to know why and what does it mean. Teaching our youth how they one day can be a leader to continue all these important meanings to their children to come. Our young teenagers are also yet another key to our way of continuing to teach them as well getting them involved in activities gives them a good sense of being and helps them go after what matters to them, knowing what freedoms they have, being an American of the United States. As well as helping achieve scholarships just by being active in the community.

I looking forward to working with all the Auxiliaries this year as we focus on this year's important key areas of this year's program:

- Youth reading to Veterans & Veterans reading to youth
- Youth groups
- Illustrating America
- R.A.P. Cards (Random Act of Patriotism)

Youth reading to Veterans & Veterans reading to youth:

Reading is a big part of growing up and learning. Many student have nightly reading starting at a young age in school. Sometimes just talking to the students about patriotism, America and our country can be dull. But taking the students on a journey in a book might capture their attention more and open their minds up. I find that children like to listen to new things with a bit of excited in learning and tend to remember what they learned. So showing them in illustrated books is a great way.

Great way to access is on the MALTA member resources, under Youth Activities they have the Patriotism through Literacy list. It is even divided up by grade levels. Pick some books from there.

Visit your local library and see if they are in stock. I know that some libraries can search to see if they can get them as well. Or maybe local bookstores maybe able to do a donation as well.

Some local libraries hold a reading day to children, maybe see about getting on that list to set up a reading day with a Veteran would be a great opportunity to get the excited with children.

Visiting your local VA or nursing home, to see if they can set up a reading area for the children to read to veteran or the veterans to read to them.

When going out on Buddy Poppy drives, parades take a few extra moments when you hand a Poppy to a child give them a little story about what the Poppy means. This topic would be a great story as well to share in a classroom. So I challenge each auxiliary to see how many classrooms you can visit throughout this school year and I will personally give out to the top 3 auxiliaries a 50.00 gift card at the end of the year.

Youth Groups:

Working with youth groups is a excellent way of helping to educate and as well as helping the gain community service hours for those youth who continuing their education by going to college. Colleges love to see how these students being very productive in the community. An what a great way to get involved with our veterans. Reaching to some of the following youth groups:

- Boys and Girl Scouts
- Youth church groups
- Boys and Girls Club
- School Sponsored Groups (Key Club, Student Council, FBLA, etc.)
- JROTC

Getting them involved:

- Placing Flags on graves
- Helping with an event
- Inviting them to come help create cards for veterans for holidays
- Celebrating a meal with veterans

Recognizing them for a job well done and their accomplishments. With Patriotic Youth Awards you can get on MALTA.

Illustrating America:

Open to any student in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline who is enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible.

Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. The contest consists of three grade division: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Please see the the student brochure and entry form in MALTA Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary website for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines:

Entries received by:

- Local Auxiliary – March 31
- Department – April 15
- National Headquarters – May 5

Youth (Continued)

R.A.P Cards (Random Act of Patriotism)

Rewarding and praising children for doing a good job. Goes a very long way in children helping to boost their confidence that they can do anything they set out to do. When a child show a Random act of Patriotism, recognize them with a card and explain to them why they are receiving it.

Children love receiving rewards as well, see what kind of reward program you can come up with in your auxiliary.

I encourage auxiliaries to participate in the Most outstanding activity and/or event of youth reading to veteran and or veterans reading to youth. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging.

Remember to always, report all activities, early or as soon as you completed related activities.

Please reach out with any questions or comments you may have. I am very excited to working with you in the coming year.

Getting excited about working with our youth and teach them all we know so they may become great leaders for the future. Share the knowledge and grow.

Rowena Martinez
Youth Chairman

President's Special Project

I would like to thank Madame Department President Nadia for appointing me chairman of her Special Project. What a beautiful Veteran pin she has designed to promote the *White Ribbon Project*. This program brings more awareness and prevention to the problems facing today's society involving sexual harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence.

This program also encourages people to sign a pledge, hoping to lower incident numbers of those effected by these preventable and sometime violent behaviors. Her Special Project will be shared in a joint effort between President Nadia and her counterpart, State Commander Carol Thomas.

The monies raised will be going to the *"Equine-imity" Program* of the *White Ribbon Project*. The *"Equine-imity" Program* is a project in which those who receive services for any of the above referenced and in need of help, would be able to participate in a program that isn't the standard approach of therapy. Individuals who participate in the *"Equine-imity" Program* would participate in sessions that would span over approximately six weeks, assisting them to heal through connecting with the animals at *Horse Partners*. Currently, the project is geared more towards Veterans and Veteran caregivers, but the [Intimate Partner Violence Assistant Program \(IPVAP\)](#) has already been looking at creating a model of this for the survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse. The Rocky Mountain Regional VA would be the second VA facility to incorporate the program. San Diego VA was the first to implement this program for IPTV survivors.

President Nadia's Veteran pin that will be used to raise money for the *"Equine-imity" Program* is a white ribbon outlined in gold. The VFW Auxiliary logo is centered in the middle of the ribbon. Below the logo are two feathers shaded in a descending order of colors beginning with a blue, teal, white, beige and ending with a caramel shade of brown on the tip of the feather. The feathers also contain gold highlights which help the outline of the feathers stand out.

My goal is that all Auxiliaries would consider purchasing at least 10 Veteran pins. This would assist in raising more money for President Nadia's Special Project.

So come on Colorado, let's get busy creating new memories and working together for "All Veterans, All Voices".

Hugs,

Patsy Gilmore
Special Project Chairman



2024-2025 Veteran's Pin Order Form Department of Colorado Auxiliary Presidents Special Project "White Ribbon Project"

Post or Auxiliary Name and Number: _____

Ship to (Name of a Person): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Quantity: _____ Pins x \$3.00 each = \$ _____

You can pay via check or money order - please do not send cash
Make check payable to Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary

Mail Veteran's Pin to: Patsy Gilmore
1719 Ascot Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO**

GENERAL ORDER #1

JUNE 8, 2024

All General Orders from the Department President are official and need to be read at the first meeting following receipt before being filed for reference.

1. Having been duly elected and installed into the office of President, Department of Colorado, according to the Constitution and bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I hereby assume command on June 8, 2024. All previously elected, appointed and committeemen's term of office is hereby declared expired and now ineffective. The following officers have been duly elected and installed at the 100th Annual Convention held in Cripple Creek, CO on June 5-7, 2024, and will have full authority to act and shall be obeyed accordingly:
 PRESIDENT: Nadia Flores (899) 20024 County Road 6, La Jara CO 81140
 SR. VICE PRESIDENT: Rena Cales (6461) 7461 Fortman Ave., Fountain CO 80817
 JR. VICE PRESIDENT: Sherri Wright (5231) 23620 Road M, Cortez CO 81321
 SECRETARY: Ginny Rosa (12009) 416 S Pine Dr., Bailey CO 80421
 TREASURER: Cindy Anderson (7945) 8281 Clay St Unit A, Westminster CO 80031
 CHAPLAIN: Crystal Proffitt (5181) P O Box 564, Dove Creek CO 81324
 CONDUCTOR: Queenie Barz (5231) P O Box 533, Mancos CO 81328
 GUARD: Dan Daffron (2788) 1183 Freemont St, Penrose CO 81240
2. **Department Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents, and Auxiliary Presidents:**
 All communications must be answered promptly, using the proper channels as listed on page 15 of the Booklet of Instructions.
3. **Following are the Program Chairs for the 2024–25 year:**
 Program Coordinator: Brigitte Dolan (7945) 2314 S Fundy Way, Aurora CO 80013
 All State Achievement: Patsy Gilmore (3917) 1719 Ascot Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80906
 Americanism: Marilyn Peters (2121) P O Box 740, Kersey CO 80644
 Auxiliary News/Website: Rachel Rodgers (9644) 3650 S Federal Blvd, Englewood CO 80110
 Auxiliary Outreach: Queenie Barz (5231) P O Box 533, Mancos CO 81328
 Buddy Poppy/National Home: Kathy Kurtenbach (5061) 2442 S Chase Ln, Lakewood CO 80227
 Chief of Staff-Ext/Revitalization: Stephanie Trujillo (2121) 4012 W 30th St, Greeley CO 80634
 Courtesy: Crystal Proffitt (5181) P O Box 564, Dove Creek CO 81324
 Historian/Social Media: Josephine Latham (4031) 429 Valley Pl, Durango CO 81303
 Hospital: Brandi Dolan (7945) 16439 E Center Dr, Aurora CO 80017
 Legislative: Phil Reinhold (5812) 834 W El Portal Dr, Pueblo West CO 81007
 Membership/Recruitment: Lucille Chavez (4171) 1710 Pierce St, Unit 206, Lakewood CO 80214
 President's Project: Patsy Gilmore (3917) 1719 Ascot Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80906
 Scholarships: Crystal Proffitt (5181) P O Box 564, Dove Creek CO 81324
 Veterans/Family Support: Christina Lilly (1) 18809 E Hawaii Dr, Aurora CO 80017
 Youth Activities: Rowena Martinez (899) 1021 County Road 110 S, Alamosa CO 81101
 Ways & Means: Alice Smith (4171) 4592 S Devinney St, Morrison CO 80465
4. **Department Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents, and Auxiliary Presidents:**
 Please place the names of Nadia Flores, Department President and Ginny Rosa, Department Secretary on your mailing list so all activities will be reported to this office.
5. **All Auxiliary Presidents, District Presidents, and Treasurers:** In accordance with the Bylaws, all Presidents and Treasurers must be bonded no later than August 31, 2024.
6. **Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers:** In accordance with the Department Standing Rules, dues notices will be sent by the Department Treasurer to all unpaid annual members and the cost of postage billed to the Auxiliary unless the Auxiliary Treasurer has notified the Department Treasurer in advance that they have sent out their own Auxiliary Dues Notices.
7. **Auxiliary Secretary and District Secretary:** Please send the names and addresses of the Auxiliary and District Chairmen to the corresponding Department chairmen and Department Secretary using the 2024-2025 Form provided on the VFW Department website.
8. **District Presidents:** Please send a complete schedule of your District meetings including dates, time, and location to Department Secretary Ginny Rosa, 416 S Pine Drive, Bailey CO 80421. Please do not schedule any District meetings during Western conference to be held November 1 – November 3, 2024, Honolulu Hawaii.
9. **District Presidents:** Annual Official Visits are very important and must be conducted. The Visiting Official should sign the Secretary's and Treasurer's books only if they are kept according to the procedures outline in the Booklet of Instructions. Every question on the Official Visit Report should be answered. A copy of the W-9 sent to National Headquarters and a copy of the filed 990 or 990-N should be provided to the Visiting Official. Inspections should be completed by December 31, 2024.

(AUXILIARY GENERAL ORDERS CONTINUED)

10. **Auxiliary Treasurers:** Membership dues should be processed promptly through Malta or sent to the Department Treasurer for processing. Do not hold dues. A copy of the application for all new and rejoined members should be sent to the Department Treasurer for processing.
11. **Auxiliary and District Trustees:** Audits for the quarters ends of June, September, December, and March must be sent to the Department Treasurer. Audits must be accepted by vote of the Auxiliary before being placed on file with the Department Treasurer within 60 days after the end of the quarter.
12. **Auxiliary Presidents and District Presidents:** Within 30 days after induction into office, the President shall submit to the Commander of the respective District or Post a copy of the last quarterly audit, membership status report and such additional reports as may be required by the liaison committee as soon as it has been accepted by the membership. See Section 810.
13. **Program Reporting:** Reporting for the current program year is from April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. All activities reported must take place during that period. All reporting must be done through the VFW Department website at vfwco.org. No paper reports will be accepted. Program chairman will be notified that you have reported and will record your cash, hours, and miles for the year.
14. **Minutes** of the 100th Department Convention held in Cripple Creek CO, June 5-8, 2024, will be mailed or emailed to the members of the Convention compositions, except for the Delegates. See Section 812B.
15. **Fall Council of Administration Meeting and Parade of Programs** are scheduled for August 24 – 25 at Cortez hosted by Post and Auxiliary 5231. The full schedule will be posted on the Colorado Department website. Workshops will be held on August 24 beginning at 8:30 am. The Parade of Programs will begin at 1:30 pm on Saturday August 24. The Joint Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 25 starting at 9:00 am at Montezuma County Annex Building, 107 N Chestnut St, Cortez CO 81321. **ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND ALL FUNCTIONS.**
16. **Council of Administration members** please try to attend the Council of Administration meetings. We must have a majority of the council present to have a quorum and be able to conduct any business.
17. **Homecoming** details are to be determined at a later date.
18. **To** Department Commander Carol Thomas, Department Officers, and VFW, I hereby pledge the continued support of all the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, Department of Colorado.

BY ORDER OF:
Nadia Flores
Department President

ATTESTED TO:
Ginny Rosa
Department Secretary

Report ALL Program Reports
On-Line
Vfwco.org

Updated the First of Every Month

Written Reports will NOT be
accepted

It is Easy

Council of Administration Weekend
August 24-25, 2024

Hosted by Montezuma County VFW Post 5231
Saturday VFW meets at Elks Lodge 1789, 2100 Dolores Rd, Cortez, CO 81321
Auxiliary meets at Montezuma County Annex Building,
107 N Chestnut St, Cortez, CO 81321
Sunday Post & Auxiliary meet at Montezuma County Annex
Building
(More information available: [Events \(vfwco.org\)](https://vfwco.org/Events))

2024-2025 Student Themes

Voice of Democracy: “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”
Patriot Pen: “My Voice in America’s Democracy”

**Please send all Deceased VFW & Auxiliary Members to
vfw@vfwco.org**

They will be saved for the Joint Memorial State Convention Book. Our Deadline is May 20, 2025