

## Serving Our To-toly Oz-some Veterans



January 2026

Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! As we step into a new year full of promise, I want to begin by thanking each of you for the time, heart, and dedication you give in service to our veterans, their families, and our communities. Your efforts- large and small- truly matter.

As we turn the calendar page, this is also a time to report on the wonderful work you have done. Program reporting is more than paperwork- it's how we tell our story, how our impact is measured, and how your hard work is recognized at the Department level. If you have completed projects, now is the time to get those reports submitted. Every report counts, and every Auxiliary has something worth sharing.

Membership remains the heartbeat of our organization. I am proud of the progress being made across our Auxiliaries. Our next membership goal is 98%+ by February 28, and I know this is achievable with focused effort. Please continue reaching out to unpaid members, welcoming new and reinstated members, and sharing why the Auxiliary matters. Every call, conversation, and invitation helps us move closer to meeting our goal.

District meetings will be held during the month of January, and I encourage everyone to prepare, attend, and participate. District meetings are a chance to learn, be inspired, share ideas, and support one another.

Please mark your calendars for the Council of Administration meeting on February 6-8 at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Make sure to purchase hospitality room tickets and banquet tickets. Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners will be recognized at the banquet, and your presence shows support for these outstanding students and their achievements.

We are honored to welcome National President Lois Callahan to North Carolina February 25- 27 in Cary. This visit is an opportunity to meet Lois, hear her vision, be energized in our mission, and proudly represent our Auxiliaries. If you plan to attend, please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Let's show strong North Carolina support!

Please remember- you are not alone in the work of the organization. Lean on your District and Department leadership, ask questions, and support one another. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you for all you do and for all you are. I am proud to serve alongside you!

In Auxiliary service,

Lin



January 22 @ 7 PM

Topic: Reporting



## A Message from the Department Treasurer

January 2026

Vfwauxnc.org

Brothers and Sisters,

*Happy New Year! I hope each of you had a wonderful Holiday season.*

*There are several reminders for you as we begin the New Year.*



- *First, and obviously very important. All applications must be submitted on the new application form effective 1 January. Any application I receive after 1 January on the previous application form will be returned to the Auxiliary. I will not mail the application but email the treasurer and President of the need for a new application to be submitted. There have been many reminders of this change and there will be no exceptions made.*
- *Any application missing any of the required information, or with incorrect information, will be returned. This includes the sex of the applicant being marked. Pay close attention to the **relationship of the applicant To the veteran**, NOT the Veteran's relationship to the applicant. This is a very common mistake, National will reject an application if this is missing, and from this point on, so will I. I will no longer make any changes or corrections to applications. As I have said before, I am not supposed to make any marks on the application as these are legal documents once they have been signed by the applicant. So, it is very important the investigation committee thoroughly review every application to ensure it is completed properly. And the treasurer to review of one last time before sending the application for processing.*
- *Please remind any applicant wanting to pay by credit card to be sure to respond to the message sent by National to enter their payment information. If the information is not received within 30 days, the application becomes null and void, requiring a new application to be completed, voted on and submitted.*
- *It is the responsibility of the **APPLICANT** to provide their proof of eligibility to join the Auxiliary. Not the responsibility of the Auxiliary. If the applicant does not provide their proof of eligibility, with the proper documentation, they must find it. A veteran who is deceased is no longer affiliated with the VFW. Therefore, the applicant is joining as unaffiliated. A veteran who is a member of another Post other than the one the applicant is joining is not Post affiliated. The applicant must join as unaffiliated and show proof of the veteran's eligibility.*

*Your 31 December audits are due to me no later than 28 February. This gives two months for the trustees to meet, conduct the audit and present it to the members for approval before sending it to me. Section 814-A.4 (pg.87) States. "The Auxiliary must vote to accept the audit and THEN forward a copy of the accepted audit to the Department Treasurer." The date of the **REGULAR** meeting this is done **MUST** be included on the copy of the audit sent to me. If this date is not provided, it delays the audit being accepted, as I must contact the treasurer to get this information. Please remember to include this information on the form.*

**PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL OF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS CORRECT IN MALTA. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL, PHONE NUMBER OR ANYTHING, PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION. WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU.**

*And as usual, if you have any questions or need any assistance, please reach out. I am here to help.*

Sandra Johnson-Leu,  
VFWA Department Treasurer Department of NC  
919-906-7592  
[ctrysun@embarqmail.com](mailto:ctrysun@embarqmail.com)  
103 Covered Bridge Rd., Clayton, NC 27520



*'Life isn't perfect. Any failures you have are actually great learning moments. They teach us how to grow and evolve,: Phillipa Soo*



## VFW AUXILIARY

### Department of North Carolina

Deborah Crowder, Secretary

910-622-6749

[sec4vfwauxnc@gmail.com](mailto:sec4vfwauxnc@gmail.com)

4717 Ilex Drive

Wilmington, NC 28412

## JANUARY NOTES

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday. It sure is hard for me to believe that we are heading into the last half of this program year. I know it has been an unusual time for our Department with the passing of Anna Holm. As you know, Anna was elected President of our Department in June of 2025. Due to poor health, Anna resigned her position in September, and passed in October. There have been some questions as to why we do not refer to Anna as a Past Department President. Although we respect Anna's many years as an active member of our Department, the National Bylaws stipulate that a Past Officer shall be someone who, having been elected or appointed and installed, ceases to hold office by completion of their term, or by death before the expiration of their term of office. (see Section 808). Unfortunately, Anna's resignation in September precludes her from being referred to as a Past Department President. It does not diminish the value of her years of service, nor our respect for her dedication.

In accordance with the National Bylaws, Section 809A, Lin Moore who was elected as Senior Vice-President, and Tracy Armstrong who was elected as Junior Vice-President, succeeded to the offices of President and Senior Vice-President, respectively. Farres Upton was appointed Junior Vice-President Pro Tem. The Council of Administration will vote to fill the office of Junior Vice-President for the remainder of this term at the upcoming Council of Administration meeting on February 8, 2026. Farres has indicated her candidacy for this position, and agrees that if elected by the Council of Administration will not pursue the typical order of progression through the chairs, but will only serve until the election of officers at the June Convention. If you have questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to contact me or any of the current line officers.

### REMINDERS:

- 1) District Meetings are starting this month. Please encourage your members to check the schedule and plan to attend. It is a good way to meet other members in your area and share ideas.
- 2) Council of Administration is February 6-8, 2026. More details available at your District Meeting.
- 3) **SAVE THE DATE:** National President Lois Callahan will make her official visit to NC **February 25 through 27, 2026** in the Raleigh/Cary area. Watch for a Bulletin Board announcing more details for her visit.
- 4) Please, PLEASE, please **do not** use old applications for membership. The new form is available in MALTA, and you can order up to 50 for free. The new applications will indicate a 2026 revision date. The old applications will not be accepted, so please be sure you are using the correct application.



# Americanism

January 2026

"Americanism is a question of spirit, of conviction and purpose, not creed or birthplaces. The test of our worth is the service we render."

President  
Roosevelt

**January Patriotic Days  
New Years January 1<sup>st</sup>**

Well Happy New Year and welcome to 2026.

Let's start this year out right and get some reports in. There are quite a few auxiliaries who have yet to report anything for Americanism or POW/MIA. With the COA coming up in February let's get those reports in as soon as possible.

January is a great time to plan what activities your auxiliary wants to for the last half of our VFW auxiliary year. Get up with your local elementary schools and have a flag etiquette class.

It supposed to be a colder winter so have a flag retirement ceremony with local youth groups and roast some marshmallows afterwards. That is always a good way to interact with our youth but instill the importance of what we do and how to treat our flag.

As always coordinate with your VFW so that we can honor our veterans and continue to complete our programs. My information is at the bottom if you ever need to reach out to me.

If you need ideas or more information on Flag etiquette, history of the flag or the U.S Flag code you can visit [VFW.org/community/flag-etiquette](http://VFW.org/community/flag-etiquette)

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From my family to yours Happy New Year.

Jeanette (Jeannie) Platt  
Americanism Program Chairman  
phone number (910) 599-8044 email [j.m.platt83@gmail.com](mailto:j.m.platt83@gmail.com)



## “Buddy” ® Poppy



Donna Wright  
Donna1023m@aol.com



It is time to start planning your “Buddy” ® Poppy art display. The contest will be held during the Winter C of A, February 6-8, 2026.

The categories are:

1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign
2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays
3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

Set up is 3:30pm to 6:30pm Friday.

Contest rules and judging guidelines may be found in MALTA Member Resources.



Have you considered becoming a member of the VFW National Home? Beginning January 1, 2026, regular membership prices increased to \$100.

<https://vfnationalhome.org/>

At the VFW National Home, no military or veteran family should face challenges alone. Case Management Services will provide personalized guidance, resources, and encouragement to help families overcome obstacles and build a brighter future.

“Serving our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans”  
NC Department President’s Theme  
2025-2026

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## **Auxiliary Outreach January**

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**2026 is here!** *New Years is an important holiday this month. Our winter season has just begun!*

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*Many families are experiencing financial difficulties because of increased cost of fuel and living expenses. Communities are sponsoring food drives and supplies drops to support the increased need. Many volunteers are needed for these events. This is a great time for our auxiliaries to volunteer.*

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Remember to follow all the guidelines and report.

Let us all help make this a great year.

If you have questions or concerns, I will be glad to help.



Patty Harris  
Auxiliary Outreach Program Chairman  
1565 Spicer Mtn Road Sparta, N.C.28675  
[pattyharris@skybest.com](mailto:pattyharris@skybest.com) Phone:336-657-1770



**CHIEF OF STAFF  
EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION  
DEBORAH CROWDER  
JANUARY 2026**

910-622-6749  
crowder84hd@gmail.com  
4717 Ilex Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28412

Before I get into the promotion for January, I want to acknowledge the upcoming anniversaries. Let's celebrate all of the years of experience in our Department.

Institution Date	Post/Auxiliary Number/Name	Post/Auxiliary Location
January 10, 2005	9983 New Topsail Island	Holly Ridge
January 23, 2008	7775 Sgt. William E. Robinson	Charlotte
January 08, 2015	10607 Robert Lee Pate III	Burlington

Speaking of experience, do you know how long some of your members have been active in the Auxiliary? Some of us have been around for a very long time. We've seen some changes during our years as members. I like to think that most of us have progressed with the times, and we get our news by smart phones and computers; however, I know we still have a few members who do not get the monthly mail because they do not use a computer. Please do not forget about those older, long-time members. Maybe some of them have lost track of the meeting date and time. Reach out to them by phone and be sure they know when the next meet will be held. Remember, Extension and Revitalization is not *just* about starting a new Auxiliary! **Extend** an invitation to all members to remind them of when the next meeting will be held. Give them an update on what is going on in the Auxiliary and be sure they are encouraged to attend and participate. Remember the "old fashioned" phone tree we used before smart phones, texting, and email messages? Go to the National website and sign in to **MALTA**. Click on **Member Resources**, then in the left-hand column click on **Extension and Revitalization**, then look under **Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit**, click on the **Healthy Communication Phone-Text Tree**. Your Auxiliary President, Secretary, and/or Treasurer has access to all of the contact information available in MALTA. Use this information to create a method of contacting all of the members of your Auxiliary. Even if some of the members do not use a computer, they can receive a phone call, text or voice mail message. This is a good time to remind everyone to check their profile in MALTA to be sure that all of the information is correct.

Presidents, are you sharing information? The Department Mail goes out to Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers of every Auxiliary in the Department. It is your responsibility as Auxiliary President (some Secretaries have been assigned this duty) to forward the mail to the members. Sharing information is a good step in making sure you have a healthy Auxiliary.

# VFW Auxiliary Dept of North Carolina Historian/ Media Relations

## January 2026



**Barbara Beard**  
198 Oakridge Dr  
Raeford, NC 28376  
[barbeard@roadrunner.com](mailto:barbeard@roadrunner.com)  
(910) 565-2351 hm  
(910) 624-4357 cell



### **Historian Notes (2025-2026 Historian & Media Relations Award for Auxiliaries)**

Most outstanding social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding social media reel highlighting their VFW Auxiliary in action.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form and the social media reel to the Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.**

**Instructions on how to make a social media reel is in MALTA Member Resources under Historian & Media Relations, Websites & Social Media-Websites, How to Create a Facebook Reel.**

### **Report, Report, Report!!!**

It is so important to complete your reports in the electronic system. Don't wait until April. You are likely to forget what you've done throughout the year. If you need assistance with completing your report, please contact me.



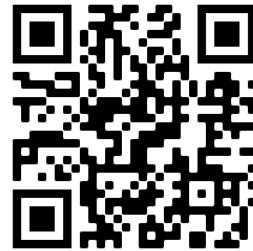
**If you don't report it.  
It didn't happen!**



**Media Challenge** - I challenge your auxiliary to create a "Reel" showcasing your auxiliary's Holiday Activities! Post your Reel to the Department of North Carolina Historian Facebook Page. The best "Reel" will win a \$25 prize for your auxiliary at the Winter C of A. Show off your creativity and holiday spirit—good luck!

Department of NC Historian Group Page

Click QR Code



## HOSPITAL

January, 2026

**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BEST WISHES FOR AN AWESOME 2026.**

**Salute to Hospitalized Veterans is the week of Valentine's. It is not too early to plan an event or see what your assigned VAMC or other medical facilities are planning. You can assist by:**

- Donating funds**
- Supply decorations**
- Make Valentine treats**
- Volunteer your time to help with planned events**
- Valentine cards are appreciated by all Veterans**

**This special week is set aside every year to honor and recognize Veterans in hospitals and other medical facilities. Take time to visit, if only for a few minutes. Take an American flag a card or small gift to let them know you appreciate the freedom we enjoy daily because of their many sacrifices. Many volunteer opportunities are available to show our Veterans we care.**

**To name a few:**

- \*Help patients write letters or cards**
- \*Escort patients to activities in the social room**
- \*Hospice, we never want a Veteran to die alone.**
- \*Contact Voluntary Service or Recreation Therapy at the medical facility where you are volunteering.**

### **OUTSTANDING HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

**Volunteer may be any VFW Auxiliary member who serves as a VFW Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer in any medical facility. Volunteer must have served from July 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. Volunteer hours at VA and non-VA facilities may be combined for award purposes.**

**All Awards and Citation forms can be found on Malta.**

**Loyally,**  
**Farres Upton, Hospital Chairman**  
**336-889-4133    farreshupton@aol.com**

## VA MEDICAL CENTER

### SALISBURY, NC

Hope everyone had a MERRY CHRISTMAS, and wishing everyone a HAPPY AND BLESSED 2026.

A big THANK YOU to everyone, for your overwhelming support, in making Christmas Merry and Bright for our Veterans at the Salisbury VA Medical Center. Santa did an outstanding job fulfilling their Holiday Wish List, PLUS MORE.

\*February 8<sup>th</sup>.. thru 14<sup>th</sup>. is "Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week".

\*This special week is set aside every year to honor and recognize all hospitalized Veterans. Plan something special, show our Veterans we care.

#### NEEDED ITEMS:

- \* Men & Women's Underwear (all sizes)
- \* Men and Women Deodorant
- \* Non-alcohol Mouth Wash
- \* Lotion and Body Wash
- \* Dr. Teal's Oatmeal or Lavender Body Wash/Lotion/Foot Cream (for Hospice)
- \* Men and Women Disposal Razors
- \* Fixodent and Denture Cleaner
- \* Vaseline
- \* Lip Balm/Chapstick
- \* Combs and Brushes (large)
- \* Gift Cards (food, gas, Walmart)

Please make an appointment for delivery by calling 704-638-3409

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans, all the time.

Loyally,

Farres Upton, Salisbury VA Representative

## **CHARLES GEORGE VA MEDICAL CENTER**



**Joyce B. Preston – VAVS Representative**

**706 Warrior Drive**

**Tryon, North Carolina 28782**

**Home: 828-859-5286**

**Bessie Bright – VAVS Deputy**

**Mobile: 828-817-0939**

**Email: jbpreston99@yahoo.com**

**Willie Glance – Honorary**

**January 2026**

**The Voluntary Service relocation to 4S is still 4S as far as we know – Previous SARRTP location**  
We are pleased to announce the successful temporary relocation of our Admin and Inpatient Social Work team, Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) department, and American Legion VSO Representatives. These services are now located in Building 47, 4 South at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC. This move was in preparation for the upcoming Chill Water Project renovation that is expected to last 4-6 weeks.

**NEEDS:** Medium and Large Sweatpants for Veterans being discharged from the hospital. We are all OUT!!!

With the blessing of our community partner and the loss of our large coffee donor, due to logistical/shipping costs (loss of \$25,000 in coffee), we are turning focus to our **Jingle Bell Java campaign**.

We are asking organizations to pledge support to our Jingle Bell Java campaign for our Veterans. Your organization will be listed as a supporting donor, on our coffee cart, as it travels throughout the hallways of our VA!

### **YOUR DONATION WILL PROVIDE:**

- \*\$60 = 150 Cups of Coffee**
- \*\$220 = 550 Cups of Coffee**
- \*\$350 = 880 Cups of Coffee**
- \*\$400 = 1,000 Cups of Coffee**

Sponsorship checks should be made out payable to Voluntary Service and mailed to:

Voluntary Service  
1100 Tunnel Road  
Asheville, NC 28805

**Please indicate Jingle Bell Java** campaign in the memo section on the check.

God Bless America & Our Troops!



Durham VA Medical Center

508 Fulton St  
Durham, NC 27705  
919-286-0411 ext. 177810  
*January 2026*



### *Durham VA Supporters:*

*As we start off the New Year, we must take a moment to remember our sister and friend Dianne Sellers. Dianne selflessly devoted many years and hours to supporting the veterans at the Durham VA Medical Center. Her dedication serves as an inspiration to us all. Please keep her husband, Ken, in your prayers, Ken was by her side every time she was volunteering, and he was by her side until the very end.*

This month I want to talk about the PARC unit located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the VA. This floor is for patients with mental conditions and need a little extra attention and care. As the Department Special Project this year focuses on Mental health, these patients get very few donations and visitors.

Donations for the PARC unit can include:

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Pizza parties  
BBQ Luncheons  
Special Catered meals or snacks  
Bingo

A small group of only 2 or 3 people can schedule to spend an hour or hour and half to play bingo with the patients. Bring small snacks and prizes. Jessica Cornett, the volunteer coordinator, is available on certain Saturdays, and during the week.

The patients also love coffee, donuts, ice cream sandwiches, cookies, etc. It is best to send her gift cards to places like Dunkin Donuts, Krispy Kreme or even Food Lion. Then she can purchase the items for the patients, and they can have a little party. There are currently 28 beds in this unit with patients ranging in age from freshly discharged to their 80's. And occasionally they do get female veterans admitted.

Don't forget about the Sweats for vets program and operation Cold front (the need for NEW warm coats) as we continue into the coldest time of year.

Always remember to complete your donation form for all donations made to the VA. And report everything you do,

As you look ahead, the Salute to Veterans week is the week of Valentine's day. I will be out there one day (not sure which day yet) handing out coffee and donuts to patients as they arrive for their appointments. I could use a couple of volunteers to assist with this.

In looking ahead, start thinking about the Salute to Veterans week in February, which is always the week of Valentine's Day. We will be looking for volunteers to help serve coffee and donuts, and we need Valentine cards to give to the patients.

*Sandra Johnson-Leu,  
Durham VAVS Representative  
919-906-7592  
[ctraysun@embarqmail.com](mailto:ctraysun@embarqmail.com)*

**Fayetteville VA MEDICAL CENTER**

**Fayetteville, NC**

**Wanda McCall, VAVS Representative**

**January 2026**

**Happy Holidays to all our wonderful Veterans and those who take care of them and support them daily. You are the reason that we take time out of our busy schedules to reach out to those of you who deserve so much more than just a thank you for your service. You are the backbone of our country and therefore you deserve the very best care that can be given to anyone.**

**At the Fayetteville VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, North Carolina our Veterans have received much love, visits, gifts, and more during this joyous holiday. The smiles on our Veterans faces are evidence that they were happy with the outpour of love they received this Holiday Season.**

**The list of items still needed beyond our Holiday gift giving is still a huge need for our CDCE Program:**

**Sweatshirts (no strings) (Male/Female)**

**Sweatpants (no strings) (Male/Female)**

**Underwear/Undershirts (Male/Female)**

**Thermal Underwear (Male/Female)**

**Socks (Male/Female)**

**Winter Hats (Male/Female)**

**Winter Gloves (Male/Female)**

**Winter Coats/Jackets (Male/Female)**

**Thank you all for everything that you do.**

**With much gratitude,**

**Wanda Locklear-McCall**

**VAVS Representative**

**Fayetteville, North Carolina**

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM—JANUARY 2026



*Wishing all of you a happy, prosperous and blessed New Year--Lynn Childs*



### Legislative News and Updates

**A message from our 2025-2026 VFW Auxiliary Legislative Ambassador, Amy Jo Lett!**

Give All Veterans the Best Possible Gift—**YOUR VOICE!** **Take Action** at <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns>. Then, share it with any two people who support Veterans. Read the latest Legislative Blog behind MALTA in Member Resources <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources>.

**The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs** held a hearing on December 13<sup>th</sup> to examine VA medication management for which the VFW submitted testimony. They went on record to convey to Congress how serious this problem has become. Two House bills have been introduced that would provide real protection. **H.R.4837, Written Informed Consent Act**, would require written informed consent before VA prescribes certain psychiatric medications: and **H.R.2623, Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025**, would expand access to innovative PTSD treatments to reduce reliance on heavy medication. **SUPPORT!**

**Congress:** Congress recessed on December 19th. Lawmakers won't be back until after Jan. 5. We may be facing another **Government Shutdown** as Congress is facing another funding deadline at the end of January! We must continue to keep up the pressure to get funding done and to act on Veteran bills and issues!

**Contact Congress** to urge them to pass **H.R. 2605/S. 1441, the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act!** This legislation proposes a five-year pilot program for the VA to award grants to nonprofit organizations to provide trained service dogs to eligible veterans, cover the cost of training, and provide lifelong veterinary insurance.

**Congress passes the National Defense Department Appropriation Act!** On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the US Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2026, sending the Pentagon's annual policy bill to President Donald Trump's desk. The bill—running to more than three thousand pages and authorizing more than \$900 billion in spending—covers all corners of the defense policy landscape. For a detailed dissection read:

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/dispatches/your-expert-guide-to-the-2026-national-defense-authorization-act/>

**Bills passed by the House and go to the Senate next: None**

**Bills passed by the Senate and go to the House next:**

**H.R. 607 Improving Veteran Access to Care Act**--A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and implement a plan to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

**S. 610 Ensuring VetSuccess On Campus Act of 2025**--This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program is located in every state. The program supports veterans, servicemembers, and qualified dependents who are transitioning from military service to college life. The VA must ensure that at least one VSOC counselor is located in each state.

**S.787 VetPAC Act of 2025**--A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other programs.

**S.1204 Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act**--A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program, and for other purposes.

**S.1383 Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2025**--A bill to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes.

**S.2393 Fiscal Year 2025 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act**--A bill to authorize a major medical facility project for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri, and for other purposes.

**S.3436 Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act**--A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of certain services to veterans in the Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

**Bills passed by Congress and go to the President next:**

**H.R.1823 VA Budget Shortfall Accountability Act**--To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**H.R. 4446 FAST VETS Act**--To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes.

**Leaders of the VFW and American Legion praise Trump's Executive Order Reclassifying Cannabis!**

Reclassification will allow the FDA to conduct research into its therapeutic value for veterans. December 18<sup>th</sup>, President Donald Trump issued an executive order to reclassify cannabis in a way that will allow FDA to legally conduct research into its therapeutic value for veterans. This is an important executive order. Cannabis being classified schedule 1 blocks large-scale, randomized clinical trials examining cannabis' impact on PTSD, TBI, sleep disruption, anxiety, depression, and chronic pain ... conditions strongly associated with veteran suicide.

Reclassification is not legalization and does not mandate use of Cannabis for non-medical use, but rather promotes transparency, clinician oversight, informed consent, and honest patient-provider discussions – reducing unsafe self-medication. *This article's original publication can be found [here](#).*

**Elections:** It is time to start thinking about the **2026 Mid-Terms!** Campaigns are in full swing! As of now, we are operating **under new Congressional maps**. Filing for the 2026 Mid-Term Primary (March 3<sup>rd</sup>) ended December 19, 2025. You may find lists of **all** candidates running in the Primary at [Candidate lists for Primary 2026](#). Election Day is November 3, 2025.

To get info and your **ballot** go to: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/> and **click Voter Search**, enter your name and info. **Click on** your name. In the Primary, you must vote in your registered party's Primary. Unaffiliated Voters may chose either Republican or Democrat Ballot.

**Remember!! Report your Election activities in MALTA! That includes voting, working the polls, working as a greeter, attending Candidate Forums and Candidate events.**

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- **How to Look Up a Bill on Congress.gov** (Tip: Bookmark the page so you can check back on progress anytime!)
- **Go to www.congress.gov**. In the search bar, type the bill number or a keyword. Click on the bill title in the results list.
- **Review details:** Bill text and summary; Sponsor, co-sponsors and committees assigned.
- **Status** (Introduced, In Committee, Passed House/Senate, etc.)
- **Use this info in your advocacy.** Cite the bill by number in your letters and calls. Connect your personal story to the bill's purpose.
- **Share updates with your Auxiliary.**



*Hope to see y'all at the February COA in Greensboro!*

Visit our Facebook Page, Dept of NC VFW Auxiliary Legislative Program to keep up with Legislative News and Action Alerts!



**Contact info:** Lynn Childs, 252-528-0500. Email: [lynn.ccta@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.ccta@gmail.com),  
1476A Northside Rd, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

*"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. —Constitution, Article II, Section 1*

# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS 2025 - 2026

National Auxiliary President Lois Callahan's theme: "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free"  
Department Auxiliary President Anna Holm's theme: "Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans"



Scholarship Chairperson: Frances Perini  
106 White Cedar Ln  
Hendersonville, NC 28791  
[fperini@prodigy.net](mailto:fperini@prodigy.net) - 401-652-0315

## JANUARY 2026

I hope that you all and your families had a very enjoyable holiday season. Now that the holidays are over auxiliaries need to focus on reporting and making sure that all program information has been distributed. We have three very important Auxiliary Scholarship programs left this year that all Auxiliaries should be promoting, Continuing Education, Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. These are all Auxiliary Scholarship programs and Auxiliaries need to support them. By promoting the Auxiliaries scholarship programs I feel that we are able to open doors and create opportunities which will benefit our children's future and create a brighter tomorrow for all. Each of our scholarships encourage patriotism, assist students in attaining an education and help students reach their full potential. This increases VFW and Auxiliary recognition while supporting our communities, students and members.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP:** This scholarship is available to Auxiliary members, their spouses and children. This is the only scholarship limited by membership. This is National President Lois Callahan's special project for the year. I am hoping that as many Auxiliaries as possible will hold a fund raiser to help support this wonderful scholarship. All monies raised will help to increase the amount of awards available. Application submission deadline is February 15, 2026. For all information, contest rules and contest entry forms go to [vfw.org/scholarships/continuing-education](http://vfw.org/scholarships/continuing-education), to donate go to Malta member login then go to Make Gift, then press Make a Gift tab and select Continuing Education or mail a check to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attn. Continuing Education Fund, 406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO. 64111, earmarked National "President's 2025-2026 Special Project."

**YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST:** This scholarship is to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work. First place- \$15,000, Second place- \$7,500, Third place- \$3,500, Fourth and Fifth place- \$1,500, Sixth and Seventh place- \$1,000, Eighth thru Nineteenth place- \$500. This contest is for students in 9 thru 12th grades. Deadline for the artwork to the Auxiliaries is March 31, 2026. For contest eligibility, contest rules and contest entry forms go to [www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships)

**3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST:** This scholarship is also to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work. First place- \$2,500, Second place- \$1,500, Third place-\$1,000, Fourth place- \$500. This contest is for students 9 thru 12th grades. Deadline for entries to the Auxiliaries is March 31, 2026. For contest eligibility, contest rules and contest entry forms go to [www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships)

## VFW NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

**VFW'S "SPORT CLIPS HELP A HERO SCHOLARSHIP:** Introduced in 2013, this VFW program awards scholarships to qualifying service members and veterans with financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way to say "thank you" to those who fought for our freedom. Scholarships are awarded each semester in the fall and spring. Awarded scholarships can be up to \$5000 to qualified applicants. For information visit [vfw.org/assistance](http://vfw.org/assistance) then press assistance at the top of the page, then press students veterans support and this will give you all information needed and how to obtain the application. Applications for the fall semester will be accepted Jan 1 through April 30. Applications for the spring semester will be accepted Aug. 1 through Nov. 15.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO REPORT! /**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice: Please act now...

# We need your donations to help with the February C of A Special Project Fundraiser.

It will be a Western Theme with Number Raffles and Cake Walk / General Store

Have your Auxiliary Donate the Following Items:

### Needed for Cake Walk / General Store

All items can be purchased at Walmart, Amazon, Aldi, Dollar Tree

12 – boxes of Cake/Brownie Mix (Cost \$1.00 - \$1.89)

and

12 – container Premade Icing. (Cost \$1.75)

and

12 - 9x13 foil cake pans (Cost \$1.25 - \$1.75)

Total Donation \$36.00 +

OR

6 – 18-24 oz. packages of Oreos (any style), chocolate chip cookies (chewy or regular), Nutter Butter Cookies, or pre-packaged Cookie. (Cost \$3.00 - \$6.00)

Total Donation \$36.00 +

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### Needed for Sarsaparilla Straw Draw:

Prizes can be donated:

Baskets, Misc. Items (Coolers, Wall Hangings, Holiday Deco)

Gift Cards (Restaurant/Retail/Visa-MasterCard) Lottery Tickets. Donation Value \$25.00 - \$50.00+

Smaller items can be donated for more winners. Cup Cakes, Cans of Sarsaparilla (Root Beer),  
Full Size Candy Bars. Total Donation \$10.00 - \$25.00+

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All Donations can be reported under NC Special Project, in the Department online reporting.

[vfwauxnc.org](http://vfwauxnc.org)

Please have your Auxiliary Donations voted on prior to purchases.

All personal donations also accepted.



**Please notify, of Donations, prior to January 15, 2025:**

**Becky Rowe, Special Project Chairman. Donations need to arrive before 6:00 on Friday.**

[ba.rowe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ba.rowe@sbcglobal.net)

I need volunteers for this event, please contact me.

Veterans and Family Support  
January 2025



Hello Brothers and Sisters of the Auxiliary, With the holiday season behind us and a new year ahead, this is an important moment to pause and reflect on the well-being of our Veterans. Too often, their mental health struggles go unseen or unspoken. Many carry invisible wounds, and some face these challenges in silence.

I want to take a moment to highlight the Veterans Crisis Line and the 988 Lifeline. These services are available 24/7 to talk, text, or chat — not only for Veterans in crisis, but also for friends, caregivers, and loved ones who may need support or guidance. Reaching out is a sign of strength, and no one has to face difficult moments alone.

As an Auxiliary, we can continue to be a source of compassion, awareness, and connection. A simple conversation, a check-in, or sharing these resources can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Secondly, I want to discuss *Uniting to Combat Hunger & Homelessness* (UTCH) was created to meet the diverse and evolving needs of our military and veteran communities. This initiative goes beyond addressing immediate challenges. It tackles food insecurity, homelessness, and the many barriers that impact the quality of life for service members, veterans, and their families. Your auxiliary can help by **1. Create “grab-and-go” bags for Veterans experiencing hardship. 2. Collect hygiene kits, socks, blankets, and cold-weather gear. 3. Work with local organizations, churches, and civic groups to expand outreach. 4. Share program information on social media, newsletters, and at Auxiliary meetings. 5. Mobilize members to help with packing, sorting, or delivering supplies.** <https://youtu.be/6fbf5pGVRXQ>

<https://youtu.be/q2csMPv9pss?t=24>

Loyally Serving,

Joe Nelson  
Veterans and Family Support Chairman  
(252)626-4888  
[Jnelson\\_nc@yahoo.com](mailto:Jnelson_nc@yahoo.com)  
**#WE CAN AND WE WILL**



# Fundraising

Jaclyn Jones  
Fundraising Chairman  
772.302.6099  
[Jaclynjones06@gmail.com](mailto:Jaclynjones06@gmail.com)



**It's that time...we are preparing for the Winter C of A and the Basket Silent Auction.**

We are a little over a month away from our Winter C of A and the Basket Silent Auction. The auction is a huge fundraiser for the Ways and Means funds. Remember these funds assist in the operational budget for the department. Your District or Auxiliary can support by assembling a basket to be auctioned off. If your auxiliary would like to donate a basket but do not have anyone attending the C of A, check with your District President, I'm positive they would be willing to bring the basket to Greensboro. Remember to find me either Thursday or Friday so I can get your basket checked in.

## BASKET IDEAS:

**Date Night Basket:** Gift card to a movie and dinner or even a picnic date night

**Staycation Basket:** Items for a night in, fancy teas, chocolates, comfy socks and books

**Adventure Basket:** Outdoor adventure items, hiking gear, attraction passes, adventures across NC

**Cocktail Hour Basket:** Spirits, mixers, garnishes, glasses and recipe book

**Best of Coffee:** Specialty beans, mugs, French press, biscotti, flavored syrups

**Pet Parent Basket:** Toys, treats, leash, grooming voucher

### *Tips for a winning basket:*

**Quality over Quantity:** Focus on fewer, higher-quality items

**Presentation:** Use a nice container, clear cellophane, ribbon

**Local Focus:** Highlight local businesses to support the community and veteran owned



## **YOUTH - January**

I know this is a lot of pages, but hopefully, the kids will be glad that you shared it with them. Winter is a good time for reading!

# **Patriotism Through Literacy**

Patriotism Through Literacy is a VFW Auxiliary **Youth Activities** initiative started in 2019, the purpose of which is to foster a love of reading while teaching students about America's past primarily through historical fiction and creative non-fiction, promoting both patriotism *and* literacy, in addition to encouraging empathy and broadening perspectives. The intended age range of readers/listeners of the books below spans from pre-k through grade 12.

In the world of children's literature, there is often talk of "mirrors and windows." In books labeled "mirrors," kid readers get to see themselves reflected in the main characters. In "windows," they see into the lives of characters they'd otherwise never know. That is why the books on our list of Recommended Reads not only showcase a number of periods in history from the Revolutionary War through post-9/11, they reflect a variety of character viewpoints: girls, boys, children, teens, adults, veterans, the children of veterans, etc., of all different backgrounds, cultures, colors, ethnicities, religions, American regions/states and abilities/disabilities.

The Recommended Reads are divided into **Historical Fiction** (fiction taking place in the past, set in the United States), **Americana and/or Educational** (fiction, non- or a mix of both, these books are about America's holidays, history, geography, government, parental deployment, etc., primarily for younger readers/listeners who may not be ready for more complex books yet, with additional titles for young children with a deployed or recently returned veteran parent), and **Creative Non-Fiction, Biography & Memoir** (biographies of important figures in American history, historical accounts from real people/events learned through interviews, letters, or diary entries, and memoirs of childhood that paint a distinct picture of America in the past). The list is periodically updated to include newly published works. While some classics appear among our Recommended Reads, most of these titles or series were published in the past 25 years, with many published within the last decade.

**Note: The grade/age levels into which these are divided are suggestions (not rules) based on publishers' guidelines, school curriculums, reading/comprehension levels and story content.**

### **SYMBOLS KEY:**

\*Indicates it has a character who is, or whose parent, grandparent, sibling etc. is, a veteran, deployed, about to be deployed, returning from deployment, MIA, or was Killed in Action.

<sup>A</sup> Indicates that the book was not written for Young Adult readers; it is an adult book with crossover appeal that **mature teen readers** may enjoy/comprehend (discretion advised).

**Underlining** indicates that the author or co-author of the book is a veteran.

Ellipses... indicates that part of the book's title was redacted because it was too long, so please Google/search for the full title or ask a librarian or bookseller for the full title.

## **Patriotism Through Literacy      Recommended Reads**

### **Preschool-Kindergarten**

#### **Historical Fiction:**

- \*At the Mountain's Base* by Traci Sorell
- Dandelions* by Eve Bunting
- This is a Rope: A Story from the Great Migration* by Jacqueline Woodson
- Fry Bread* by Kevin Noble Maillard
- Fairy Floss: The Sweet Story of Cotton Candy* by Ann Ingalls
- My Life as a Pioneer* by Ann Matzke

#### **Americana and/or Educational:**

- \*Missing Momma* by Winsome Bingham, illustrated by Rahele Jomepour Bell
- \*Tuesday Tucks Me In* by Luis Carlos Montalvan
- \*Hero Mom and \*Hero Dad* by Melinda Hardin
- \*My Red Balloon* by Eve Bunting
- \*Home Again* by Dorinda Silver Williams
- \*Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops* by Dr. Jill Biden
- \*Boyogi: How a Wounded Family Learned to Heal* by David Barclay Moore
- \*Jayylen's Christmas Wish* by Lavaille Lavette, illustrated by David Wilkerson
- \*Talking About Deployment: A Sesame Street Resource* by Charlotte Reed
- \*Mini Military series (Lil Navy Sailor, Lil Army Soldier, etc.)* by RP Kids
- This Land is Your Land* by Woodie Guthrie, illustrated by Kathy Jakobsen
- Leo's First Vote* by Christina Soontornvat
- Apple Pie 4th of July* by Janet S. Wong
- Juneteenth for Mazie* by Floyd Cooper
- A is for America: A Patriotic Alphabet Book* by Tanya Lee Stone
- Red, White, and BOOM!* by Lee Wardlaw
- America the Beautiful* by Katharine Lee Bates, illustrated by Wendell Minor
- Aloha, Everything* by Keylin Melia George
- Fourth of July Fireworks* by Patrick Merrick

#### **Creative Non-Fiction, Biography & Memoir:**

- \*He Looks Like Me* by Lawanda Warthen
- \*John, Paul, George, and Ben* by Lane Smith
- \*John McCain: A Little Golden Book Biography* by Gram Adams
- \*Wat Kept Playing: The... Story of Wataru Misaka...* by Emily Inouye Huey
- Can You Sing 'The Star-Spangled Banner?'* by Martha E. H. Rustad
- What Your Ribbon Skirt Means to Me: Deb Haaland...* by Alexis Bunten
- Mae Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed
- Journey to the Stars: Kalpana Chawla, Astronaut* by Laurie Wallmark
- Ron's Big Mission* by Rose J. Blue
- Blue Sky, White Stars* by Sarvinder Naberhaus, illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- I Am series (I Am Abe Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Amelia Earhart, etc.)* by Brad Metzer

## **Patriotism Through Literacy      Recommended Reads**

### **Grades 1-2**

#### **Historical Fiction:**

- \*Mama Played Baseball* by David A. Adler
- Ellis Island Passover* by Marissa Moss
- Do You Know Them?* by Shana Keller, illustrated by Laura Freeman
- Coming On Home Soon* by Jacqueline Woodson
- Show Way* by Jacqueline Woodson
- Clara and the Bookwagon* by Nancy Smiler Levinson
- Dust for Dinner* by Ann Turner
- Baseball Saved Us* by Ken Mochizuki
- Golly Sisters Go West* by Betsy Byars
- The Josefina Story Quilt* by Eleanor Goerr
- The Doll Shop Downstairs* by Yona Zeldis McDonough
- New Shoes* by Susan Lynn Meyer, illustrated by Eric Valasquez

#### **Americana and/or Educational:**

- \*Rolling Thunder* by Kate Messner, illustrated by Greg Ruth
- \*The Veterans Day Visitor* by Peter Catalanotto, illustrated by Pamela Schembri
- Keepunumuk: Weeachumun's Thanksgiving Story* by Alexis Bunten, et al.
- The Survivor Tree...* by Cheryl Somers Aubin, illustrated by Sheila Harrington
- Some of Us: A Story of Citizenship & the United States* by Rajani LaRocca
- If I Were President* by Catherine Stier
- The Flag We Love* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- We the Kids* by David Catrow
- The Scrambled States of America* by Laurie Keller

#### **Creative Non-Fiction, Biography, & Memoir:**

- \*They Called Her Molly Pitcher* by Anne Rockwell
- \*Nubs: True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle* by Maj. Brian Dennis, et al.
- \*A Life of Service: The Story of... Tammy Duckworth* by Christina Soontornvat
- \*A Day for Rememberin'...* by Leah Henderson, illustrated by Floyd Cooper
- \*The Spy Who Played Baseball* by Carrie Jones
- Revolutionary Mary* by Karen Blumenthal and Jen McCartney
- Finding Providence: The Story of Roger Williams* by Avi
- First Flight: The Story of Tom Tate & the Wright Brothers* by George Shea
- Diana's White House Garden* by Elisa Carbone
- Emma's Poem* by Linda Glaser
- The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles
- Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport
- Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of... Macy's Parade* by Melissa Sweet
- Harriet's Ruffled Feathers* by Joy McCullough
- I Could Do That: How Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote* by Linda White

## **Patriotism Through Literacy      Recommended Reads**

### **Grades 3-4**

#### **Historical Fiction:**

- \**Brave Like My Brother* by Marc Tyler Nobleman
- \**The Hero Two Doors Down, Based on the True Story...* by Sharon Robinson
- \**Postcards from Pismo* by Michael Scotto, illustrated by Dion Williams
- I Survived* series (Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor, D-Day, 9/11, etc.) by Lauren Tarshis
- Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh* by Uma Krishnaswami
- Home is With Our Family* by Joyce Hansen, illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- Capital Mysteries* series by Ron Roy
- Tricking the Tallyman* by Jacqueline Davies
- The Year of the Boar & Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord
- American Girl* series (incl. books about \*Molly, \*Claudie, \*Kit) by various
- Worth* by Alexandria LaFaye
- If You Were a Kid During...* series (\*American Revolution, etc.) by Will Mara
- Magic Treehouse* series (incl. *Big Day for Baseball*, etc.) Mary Pope Osborne

#### **Americana and/or Educational:**

- \**The Wall* by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Ronald Himler
- \**America's White Table* by Margot Theis Raven
- \**Half a Man* by Michael Morpurgo
- We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart* by Walter Dean Myers
- Ellie May on Presidents' Day* by Hillary Homzie
- Shh! We're Writing the Constitution* by Jean Fritz

#### **Non-Fiction, Biography, & Memoir:**

- \**The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and... Veterans* by Barbara E. Walsh
- \**A Splash of Red: The Life & Art of Horace Pippin* by Jen Bryant/Melissa Sweet
- \**Forgotten Founders...* by Mifflin Lowe, illustrated by William Luong
- \**Twenty-One Steps: Guarding... Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* by Jeff Gottesfeld
- \**Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series* by Traci Sorell
- \**Being Teddy Roosevelt: A Boy, a President and a Plan* by Claudia Mills
- \**Nisei Soldiers: Elite Fighters of WWII* by Debbie Michiko Florence
- Weird but True Facts about... (U.S. Military/U.S. Presidents)* by Arnold Ringstad
- I Have a Dream* by Martin Luther King, Jr., illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- A is for Abigail: An Almanac of Amazing American Women* by Lynne Cheney
- She Persisted* series (Maya Lin, Maria Tallchief, Sally Ride, etc.) by various
- Who Was/What Was...* series, (Sitting Bull, \*D-Day, \*Gettysburg, etc.) by various
- What Do We Know About...* series (*Lost Colony of Roanoke*, etc.) by various
- Little Legends/Little Leaders/Little Dreamers* by Vashti Harrison
- Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story... Underground Railroad* by Ellen Levine
- Amazing Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Who Inspire...* by Maia Shabutani
- Magic Treehouse Fact Checkers* (\*Revolution, \*WWII, etc.) Mary Pope Osborne

## **Patriotism Through Literacy      Recommended Reads**

### **Grades 5-6**

#### **Historical Fiction:**

\**Eyes on the Sky* by J. Kasper Kramer  
\**Keeping Score* by Linda Sue Park  
\**Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park  
\**Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam* by Cynthia Kadohata  
\**The True History of Lyndie B. Hawkins* by Gail Shepherd  
\**The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA* by Brenda Woods  
\**One Crazy Summer* trilogy by Rita Williams Garcia  
\**Planet Earth is Blue* by Nicole Panteleakos  
*On the Horizon* by Lois Lowry, illustrated by Kenard Pak  
*We Dream of Space* by Erin Entrada Kelly  
*Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper  
*Eagle Drums* by Nasuqraq Rainey Hopson  
*Show Me a Sign* by Ann-Clare LeZotte  
*Red, White & Whole* by Rajani LaRocca  
*This is Just a Test* by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang  
*Eleven* by Tom Rogers  
*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
*My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich* by Ibi Zoboi  
*Nine, Ten, a September 11th Story* by Nora Raleigh Baskin  
*Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Unsinkable Cayenne* by Jessica Vitalis

#### **Creative Non-Fiction, Biography, & Memoir:**

\**Chester Nez: A Navajo Codetalker's Story* by Joseph Bruchac  
\**Off to War and \*Children of War* by Deborah Ellis  
\**Skyward: The Story of Female Pilots in WWII* by Sally Deng  
\**Leadership Journey: How 4 Kids Became President* by Doris Kearns Goodwin  
\**Fallout: Spies, Superbombs & Ultimate Cold War Showdown* by Steve Sheinkin  
*Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told* by Walter Dean Myers  
*Out of Hiding: A Holocaust Survivor's Journey to America* by Ruth Gruener  
*How We Got to the Moon... Humanity's Greatest Adventure* by John Rocco  
*History Smashers series* (Revolution, Pearl Harbor, etc.) by Kate Messner  
*Big Ideas That Changed the World* series by Don Brown  
*It's Up to You, Abe Lincoln* by Leila and Tom Hirschfeld  
*What Was the Continental Congress?* by Candice Ransom  
*Maya Lin* by Jeanne Walker Harvey, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk  
*The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy  
*We'll Never Forget You, Roberto Clemente* by Trudie Engel  
*Ellis Island (A True Book)* by Elaine Landau

## **Patriotism Through Literacy      Recommended Reads**

**Grades 7-8**

### **Historical Fiction:**

\**Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen  
\**Scar: A Revolutionary War Tale* by J. Albert Mann  
\**Like a River: A Civil War Novel* by Kathy Cannon Wiechman  
\* *Homefront* by Doris Gwaltney  
\**Grenade* and \**Heroes* by Alan Gratz  
\**Two Roads* by Joseph Bruchac  
*Seeds of America* series by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*All the Stars Denied* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall  
*The Magical Imperfect* by Chris Baron  
*Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata  
*Ophie's Ghosts* by Justina Ireland  
*Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar  
*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse  
*The Day of the Pelican* by Katherine Paterson

### **Creative Non-Fiction, Biography, & Memoir:**

\**Star Sailor* by Charles F. Bolden, Jr. & Tonya Bolden  
\**Warrior Dog (Young Readers Edition)* by Joe Layden, Will Chesney  
\**Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood* by Gary Paulsen  
\**Fly Girls: Forgotten Women... Pilots of WWII* by P. O'Connell Pearson  
\**The Notorious Benedict Arnold, A True Story...* by Steve Sheinkin  
\**Facing the Mountain... (Young Readers Adaptation)* by Daniel James Brown  
\**On the Horizon: Memories of WWII* by Lois Lowry, illustrated by Kenard Pak  
\**Braver Than I Thought: Real People, Real Courage...* by Luke Reynolds  
*Bad Boy: A Memoir* by Walter Dean Myers  
\**At Last She Stood... Joey Guerrero... Fought for Freedom* by Erin Entrada Kelly  
*Astronauts: Women on... Final Frontier* by Jim Ottaviani, illustrator Maris Wicks  
*Bomb: The Race to Build –& Steal– Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin  
*Amelia Lost: The Life & Disappearance of Amelia Earhart* by Candace Fleming  
*The Great Influenza: The... Deadliest Pandemic in History* by John M. Barry  
*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson  
*Lifting As We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box* by Evette Dionne  
*Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings* by Margarita Engel  
*Hidden Figures: The American Dream...* by Margot Lee Shetterly  
*Witches: Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem* by Rosalyn Schanzer  
*Ambushed! The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield* by Gail Jarrow  
*Jane Addams: Most Dangerous Woman in America* by Marlene Targ Brill  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*Susie King Taylor: Nurse, Teacher & Freedom...* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

## **Patriotism Through Literacy      Recommended Reads**

### **Grades 9-12**

#### **Historical Fiction:**

- \**Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers
- \**The Things a Brother Knows* by Dana Reinhardt
- \**Soldier's Heart: Being the Story of the Enlistment and...* by Gary Paulsen
- \**Flygirl* by Sherri L. Smith
- \**I Pledge Allegiance* (Vietnam Series Book 1) by Chris Lynch
- \**Alex & Eliza* by Melissa de la Cruz
- \**Time Enough for Drums* by Ann Rinaldi
- \**Two Girls of Gettysburg* by Lisa Klein
- Butterfly Yellow* by Thanhha Lai
- The Downstairs Girl* by Stacey Lee
- We Are Not Free* by Traci Chee
- Sheine Lande* by Darcie Little Badger
- Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malindo Lo
- A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tehera Mafi
- The Hired Girl* by Laura Amy Schlitz
- Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson
- The Davenports* by Krystal Marquis
- The Memory of Things* by Gae Polisner

#### **Creative Non-Fiction, Biography, & Memoir:**

- <sup>A</sup> \**Lost in Action: A WWII Soldier's... Capture on Bataan...* by Dick Bilyeu
- <sup>A</sup> \**Combat Crew* by John Comer
- <sup>A</sup> \**Code Talker Stories* by Laura Tohe
- <sup>A</sup> \**Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow
- \**Unbroken (YA Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey...* by Laura Hillenbrand
- \**Pure Grit: How American WWII Nurses Survived...* by Mary Cronk Farrell
- \**Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from WWII to Peace* by Ashley Bryan
- \**American Boys: True Story of the Lost 74 of the Vietnam War* by Louise Esola
- Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom...* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery
- Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose
- Loving Vs. Virginia* by Patricia Hruby Powell
- 1968: Today's Authors Explore a Year of... Change* by Marc Aronson, et al.
- Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space* by Lynn Sherr
- Black Birds in the Sky* by Brandy Colbert
- They Call Us Enemy* by George Takei
- March* graphic novel series by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin & Nate Powell
- A Most Perilous World* by Kristina R. Gaddy
- <sup>A</sup> *The Radium Girls* (also available in a *Young Readers Edition*) by Kate Moore
- <sup>A</sup> *9/11 Ordinary People: Extraordinary Heroes* by Will G. Merrill, Jr.
- <sup>A</sup> *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890...* by David Treuer

# Membership 2025-2026

Angi Hardy 52 Monarch Ct. Cameron, NC 28326 910-322-6478

National President Lois Callahan's Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea-Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free

Department Theme: Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans

As of Dec. 26, 2025, the Department is at 93.80%, we need 347 members to reach 100%.



Having a strong membership base is what draws someone to become a member, and our membership is the core of our organization

Invest in the Future of the Organization:

- Invite someone to join
- Share what we do
- Follow up
- Include them in meetings and events
- Share ways to encourage participation



Remember we are “The lighthouse in someone’s Storm.” Together we are the ocean, recruiting, retaining, reinstating and navigating current and future members.

Membership resources can be found on:

National Website (<https://vfwauxiliary.org>)

Department of NC Auxiliary (<https://vfwauxnc.org>)

Malta Webpage (<https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources>)

*Angi Hardy*

National Membership Ambassador Mike Maruszak

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“I Am The Ocean”

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report

President: Lin Moore

2025-26

Chairman: Angi Hardy

Date: 12.22.25

Western · Becky Rowe

**District 11 Pres Farres Upton**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1119	Cooleemee	30	33	11	110.00%
5352	Kernersville	141	122	81	86.52%
7794	Elkin	34	31	15	91.18%
9010	Clemmons	57	47	46	82.46%
9436	Pilot Mountain	62	58	26	93.55%
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>89.81%</b>

**District 15 Pres Sherry Brooks**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1142	N. Wilkesboro	86	83	74	96.51%
4286	Newland	37	37	24	100.00%
7031	Boone	50	35	23	70.00%
7034	Sparta	66	64	50	96.97%
7946	Jefferson	31	31	13	100.00%
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>92.59%</b>

**District 13 Pres Lyndsey Bowlus**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1160	Charlotte	139	130	124	93.53%
2423	Indian Trail	111	106	101	95.50%
5464	Monroe	47	34	31	72.34%
6724	Paw Creek	40	37	31	92.50%
7775	Charlotte	21	20	20	95.24%
9337	Gastonia	68	59	29	86.76%
9736	Croft	16	13	5	81.25%
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>90.27%</b>

**District 16 Pres Joyce Preston**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
891	Asheville	79	76	68	96.20%
5206	Hendersonville	75	67	61	89.33%
9116	Columbus	26	26	19	100.00%
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>93.89%</b>

**District 14 Pres Linda Owens**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1706	Lincolnton	86	63	49	73.26%
2031	Statesville	62	67	58	103.08%
4066	Shelby	16	16	16	100.00%
5305	Newton	32	28	14	87.50%
5362	Morganton	0	15	0	
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>94.97%</b>

**District 17 Pres Jan Strough**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
4309	Brevard	175	150	117	85.71%
5202	Waynesville	221	147	116	66.52%
6812	Hayesville	56	55	43	98.21%
7339	Franklin	72	63	33	87.50%
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>84.76%</b>

WESTERN	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1936</b>	<b>1740</b>	<b>1298</b>	<b>89.87%</b>

DEPT	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6964</b>	<b>6524</b>	<b>5392</b>	<b>93.68%</b>

NC At-Large	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>97.30%</b>

Needed to Reach 100 %

440

Date: 12.22.25

Central - Johnnie Cox

**District 6 Pres Emily Ball**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1920	Mebane	50	49	29	98.00%
10607	Burlington	39	42	28	107.69%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>102.25%</b>

**District 10 Pres Carsonia Whitmore**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2087	Greensboro	20	20	6	100.00%
2972	Gibsonville	36	36	32	100.00%
3074	Lexington	39	39	14	100.00%
8297	Mway Monroeton	55	56	48	101.82%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.67%</b>

**District 8 Pres Mary Zanders**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
670	Fayetteville	198	207	151	104.55%
6,018	Fayetteville	201	183	167	91.04%
10,630	Hope Mills	34	32	28	94.12%
		7			
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>433</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>97.46%</b>

**District 12 Pres Theresa Billips**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
3006	Salisbury	98	93	62	94.90%
6365	Locust	22	22	7	100.00%
8989	Kannapolis	120	108	62	83.33%
9134	Rockwell	22	15	12	68.18%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>262</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>90.08%</b>

**District 9 Pres Angi Hardy**

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
4203	Rockingham	56	58	38	103.57%
5631	Sanford	123	119	110	96.75%
7318	Southern Pines	365	360	341	98.63%
10,403	Wadesboro	43	26	26	60.47%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>587</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>95.91%</b>

CENTRAL	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1521</b>	<b>1463</b>	<b>1161</b>	<b>96.18%</b>

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report  
 President Lin Moore      2025-26      Chairman- Angi Hardy

Date: 12.22.25

East-Wendy Doubles

District 1 Pres Mary Coatney					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
6060	Elizabeth City	255	221	174	86.67%
7312	Sunbury	23	22	17	95.65%
10950	Outer Banks	38	40	38	105.26%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>316</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>89.56%</b>

District 4 Pre.Jaymie Hayes					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2514	New Bern	22	14	10	63.64%
7315	Havelock	205	204	184	99.51%
7547	Clinton	54	54	53	100.00%
8986	Newport	70	61	54	87.14%
9133	Jacksonville	198	191	160	96.46%
9810	Warsaw	29	27	27	93.10%
9960	Swansboro	287	280	237	97.56%
11119	West Craven	29	28	28	96.55%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>894</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>96.09%</b>

District 2 Pres. Violet Saviak					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2615	Goldsboro	46	46	30	100.00%
2771	Kinston	18	16	10	88.89%
7032	Greenville	39	34	23	87.18%
9959	Mount Olive	51	44	33	86.27%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>154</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>90.91%</b>

District 5 Pres Deborah Crowder					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
7288	Calabash	328	308	241	93.90%
8866	Holden Beach	111	112	111	100.90%
9983	Holly Ridge	184	186	159	101.09%
10226	Oak Island	99	100	95	101.01%
10400	B Spring Lakes	81	67	48	82.72%
121966	Leland	18	14	12	77.78%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>821</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>90.86%</b>

District 3 Pres Yvonne McLeod					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2057	Rocky Mount	70	55	54	78.57%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>78.57%</b>

EASTERN	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>2688</b>	<b>2469</b>	<b>2165</b>

District 7 Pres Wanda McCall					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	
6722	Lillington	27	25	23	92.59%
7383	Cary	151	148	133	96.01%
9103	Spring Lake	106	102	94	96.23%
10225	Garner	112	107	92	95.54%
10999	Raleigh	37	37	31	100.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>433</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>95.15%</b>