



National President's Visit

2025-26 National President Lois Callahan
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
will make her visit to
North Carolina on February 25-27, 2026



Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Aisle of Honor appointees should arrive at the hotel to practice. All others should plan to arrive by 11:00 a.m. and can bring small flags if desired. **Attire** for the Aisle of Honor Appointees is the NC Look – White button-down shirt, patriotic scarf (or tie), black pants, and black shoes. Everyone attending is encouraged to wear the NC Look as well. **Hampton Inn Lenovo Center, 111 Hampton woods Lane, Raleigh**
- 11:36 a.m. Lois will arrive at RDU and be met by Dept. President Lin, and Dept. Sr. VP Tracy
- 12:30 a.m. Nat'l Pres should arrive at the hotel where she will be greeted by Dept. Conductor Angi. Lin and Tracy will come into the hotel where they will take their positions for the Aisle of Honor. Angi will then escort Lois into the hotel.
- 12:45 p.m. Angi announces the National President and Lois proceeds through the Aisle of Honor to be welcomed to NC by Department President Lin. Typically, the National President will spend some time greeting the attendees.
- 1:15 p.m. Lunch will be on your own in the surrounding area unless otherwise published. According to Google, there are many choices in the area.
- Free time We will gather to sign Thank You cards for veterans between lunch and meeting to go to dinner
- 5:45 p.m. Meet to drive to VFW Post 7383 (Cary) for dinner. The menu is a Potato Bar with all the fixings for \$12.00 per person. **Attire** for the evening is casual, and after dinner, we will play Music Bingo and socialize.
522 Reedy Creek Road, Cary, NC

Thursday, February 26, 2026

- NOTES:**
- 1) Please be sure to read the attached document from President Lin explaining the request issued by the Garner VA Clinic.
 - 2) **Attire** for the morning is the Official National Look – Blue shirt (purchased through the VFW Store), black pants, black shoes, Official Cover if you have one. If you do not have the blue shirt from National, you may wear the NC Look, or a shirt representing your Auxiliary.
 - 3) **Attire** for the evening is Casual Western Theme.

Schedule of Events (Continued)

Thursday, February 26, 2026

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel from 6 – 10 (usually – please check with the hotel for start time. Breakfast is included with your reservation.
- 9:15 a.m. Group A will depart for the Garner VA Clinic to tour and distribute doughnuts and coffee to the veterans. Should arrive by 10:00 a.m.
Garner VA Clinic 2700 Benson Road, Garner, NC
- Group B will remain at the hotel to assemble the food bags for veterans in need as prescribed by the contact person at the VA Clinic.
- 11:30 a.m. Everyone, regardless of location should depart for the Garner Veteran Memorial for the wreath placement ceremony. Group B will bring the Food Bags to the Memorial, and they will be delivered to the Clinic at noon. (See the attached notice)
921 Buffaloe Road, Garner, NC
- 12:30 p.m. Depart from Garner to have lunch at VFW Post 10999 arriving by 1:00 p.m.
1120 Sawmill Road, Raleigh, BNC (American Legion Hall)
- 2:30 p.m. Depart Post 10999 returning to the hotel
- 2:30 p.m.-
5:30 p.m. Socialize at the hotel and prepare for the banquet OR Stop to Shop on the way back.
- 5:30 p.m. Depart for Banquet at Post 7383. **Reservations were required.** Meal: Backyard BBQ
Attire: Casual Western **522 Reedy Creek Road, Cary, NC**

President Lois departs early in the morning, so say your goodbyes tonight

- REMEMBER: In lieu of gifts donations can be made to her special project.
VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarships Gifts can be made using MALTA, Go to the “Make Gift” tab and follow the instructions.
- If you bring a check to this event, make it payable to the VFW Auxiliary Department of NC and enter “National President’s Special Project” on the Memo Line. The check(s) will be collected and the Department Treasurer will issue one check to National.

Friday, February 27, 2026

Everyone staying at the hotel can have breakfast before departing for home or parts unknown. Travel safe until we meet again.

Attention all members planning to attend the National President's Visit:

Due to an updated request from the Garner VA, we have been asked to adjust our plans for the upcoming National President's visit. To comply with their request, we will need to alter plans for Thursday morning. We will divide into two groups and complete two service projects.

Group A consisting of only 12 members (the Clinic's request) will travel to the Garner VA facility for a tour and to distribute doughnuts and coffee to the veterans.

Group B will remain at the hotel to complete a service project for veterans experiencing food insecurity. We will assemble bags of food to be delivered to the Garner VA Clinic. Hopefully, the members who are assigned to the Durham VAMC and live close by will volunteer to be in Group B as they will have other opportunities to visit the new Clinic.

I am asking that all who plan to come for Lois' visit, please bring some of the following items to be placed in the bags. Please ask members of your Auxiliary to assist with collecting these items. This would be a report for Veterans & Family Support. (Bags will be provided)

Following is a list of foods recommended by the VA:

Canned meat with pop tops

Canned vegetables with pop tops or microwavable

Fruit cups

Granola/protein bars

Beef jerky

Bottled water

Hand wipes

At 11 AM both groups will meet at the Garner Veteran Memorial to lay a wreath.

At noon, we will deliver the bags to the Garner facility. At this time, those who want to do a shortened tour of the facility will be able to do so.

We will then all meet at Post 10999 for lunch. All should arrive by 1:00 PM.

The remainder of the day should be according to the original schedule.

Please know that this adjustment was made at the request of the VA, and I appreciate your flexibility and understanding.

Thank you for stepping up to support this project and your dedication truly reflects the strength and teamwork of the Department of North Carolina! I am so proud to be a part of this Department!

Lin