

*Department of North Carolina  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary*



*Serving our Toto-ly Oy-some Veterans  
2025-2026*

*Anna C. Holm, President*

# *2025-2026 Program Book*

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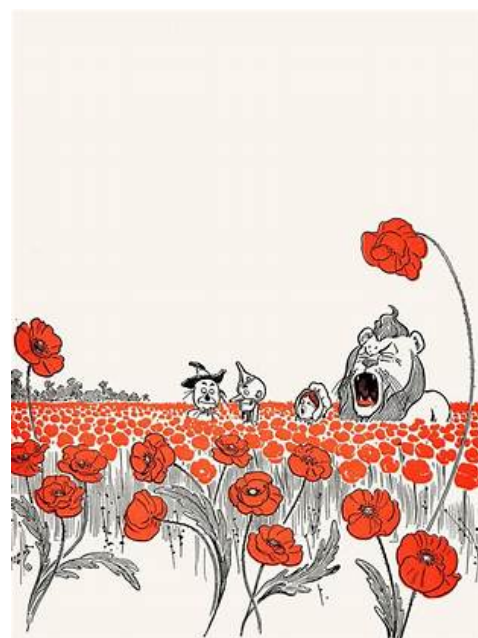
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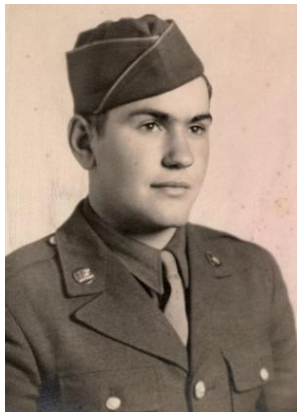


# *Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans*

This year is dedicated to my husband, Arne Holm, my father and mother, John and Arlene Backlund, and my brothers, John Jr., and James.



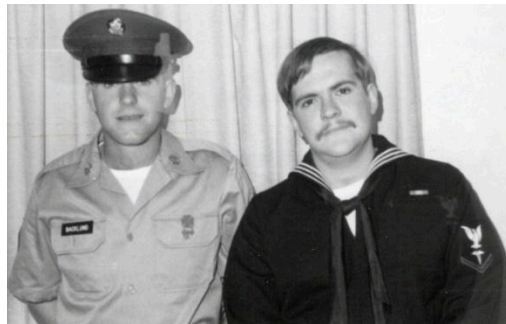
Arne Holme



John Backlund



Arlene Backlund



James and John Jr. Backlund

In life you either show up and get everything life intended you to fulfill, or you sit back and watch as time goes by and go to your grave empty.

# *Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans*

The first time I read *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, I wanted to be Dorothy. I wanted to meet the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, the Cowardly Lion, and all the other characters in the book.

I'm asking the members of the Department of North Carolina to strive to be as:



**Determined as Dorothy  
Wise as the Scarecrow  
Loving as the Tin Woodman  
Brave as the Cowardly Lion  
Loyal as Toto**

It was during the "War to End All Wars" that Canadian John McCray wrote, "In Flanders field the poppies blow..." I have wondered if he possibly read "*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*" when he was young and remembered when Dorothy, Toto, and the Cowardly Lion slept under the poppies spell where, "**We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.**"



In life you either show up and get everything life intended you to fulfill, or you sit back and watch as time goes by and go to your grave empty.

# *Important Dates to Remember*

## **2025**

June 12 – 15, 2025	NC Department Convention, Greensboro, NC
Aug. 9 – 13, 2025	126 <sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention, Columbus, OH
Aug. 31 – Sept. 7, 2025	Commander in Chief, Al Lippharat's Alaskan Cruise
Aug. – Sept., 2025	Fall District Meetings
Sept. 8 – 11, 2025	Fall Legislative Conference, Washington, DC
Oct. 3 – 5, 2025	Fall Council of Administration, Greensboro, NC
Nov. 7 – 10, 2025	Southern Conference, Conrow, TX
Dec. 8 – 14, 2025	Southern Conference Group Caribbean Cruise

## **2026**

Jan. 2026	Winter District Meetings
Feb. 6 – 8, 2026	Winter Council of Administration, Greensboro, NC
Feb. 9 – 13, 2026	2026 Mid-Year Cruise – Fort Lauderdale, FL
Feb. 25 – 27, 2026	National President Lois Callahan visit, Garner, NC
Feb. 28 – Mar. 5, 2026	Spring Legislative Conference, Washington, DC
Apr. 15 – 19, 2026	Sr. Vice Training, Kansas City, MO
May, 2026	Jr. Vice Training, Eaton Rapids, MI
Apr. – May, 2026	Spring District Conventions
June 2026	NC Department Convention, Greensboro, NC
July 11, 2026	Homecoming – Anna Holm's 75 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, Raleigh, NC
Aug. 15 – 19, 2026	127 <sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT
Sept. 25 – 28, 2026	National Commander-in-Chief Homecoming, Des Moines, IA

# 2025 VFW SOUTHERN CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 6, 2025 – NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Margaritaville Lake Resort Lake Conroe | Houston  
600 Margaritaville Parkway  
Montgomery, TX 77356  
936-449-4400



Register and purchase your tickets for the event at: <https://square.link/u/iffW94WZ>

Hotel reservations may be made at:  
[margaritavilleresorts.com](https://margaritavilleresorts.com)

National President Lois Callahan's  
2026 Mid-Year

**Feb 9-13, 2026**

Celebrity Cruise Lines  
Celebrity Reflection





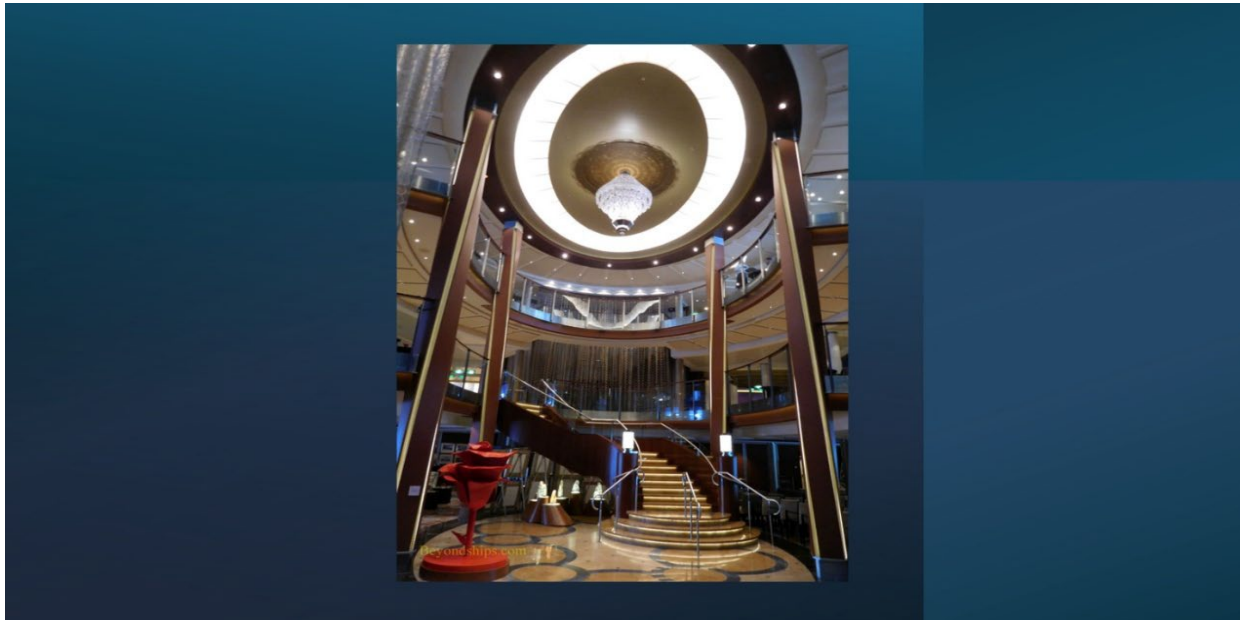
**The following items are included in your package:**

- If you purchase air travel through VTS, airport transportation is included. If you choose to arrange your own air travel, you can purchase airport transportation for \$60.
- Cruise aboard Celebrity Reflection for four nights
- Port fees and taxes
- Tips (gratuities)
- Cabin type choice
- Two cocktail parties exclusively for VFW Auxiliary members booked through VTS.

**A non-refundable deposit of \$150.00 per person is required to secure your spot today.**

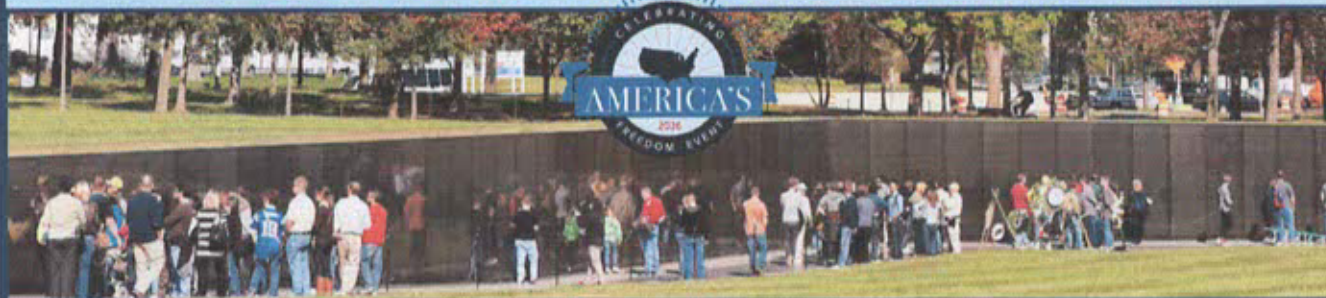
***All forms must be completed when you make your deposit payment. Passport information can be updated prior to final payment.***

**The final payment is due on October 1, 2025.**



Date	Ports of Call	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Activity
Mon 09 Feb 2026	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	-	4:00 PM	Boarding
Tue 10 Feb 2026	Key West, Florida	7:00 AM	4:00 PM	Docked
Wed 11 Feb 2026	Bimini, Bahamas	8:00 AM	5:00 PM	Docked
Thu 12 Feb 2026	Cruising	-	-	-
Fri 13 Feb 2026	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	7:00 AM	-	Departure

VFW AUXILIARY'S 13th  
CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT



Join members at the  
*National Vietnam Veterans Memorial*  
in Washington, D.C. February 28, 2026



*When:* 02/28/26  
2/27: Arrivals  
2/28: Vietnam Veterans  
Memorial  
3/01: Departures

*Where:*  
Washington, D.C.



*CAFE Registration Costs:*

\$40 per person includes  
transportation to Vietnam  
Veterans Memorial.

Register in MALTA in December.

Find more information about the location,  
visit the National Vietnam Veterans  
Memorial website: [nps.gov/vive/index.htm](https://nps.gov/vive/index.htm)



*Hotel:*

**Crystal Gateway Marriott**  
1700 Richmond Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202-3505

**Accommodations:**

1 King Bed - \$279.00 per night  
2 Double Beds - \$279.00 per night

Call: 703-920-3230

[www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/  
wasgw-crystal-gateway-marriott](https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/wasgw-crystal-gateway-marriott)



# *National President's Visit*

## *February 25-27. 2026*

*VFW Auxiliary National President  
Lois Callahan*



**WILL BE VISITING GARNER, NORTH CAROLINA**

**“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free”**

Lois Callahan's National Theme

Mark your calendars so you won't miss this event. VFW members are welcome to attend along with the Auxiliary members. The more, the merrier.

We are all looking forward to National President Lois Callahan visiting North Carolina, the Tar Heel State. We're going to show her how much the members of this Department value her and her leadership.

We want to be sure to show Lois true “Southern Hospitality” during her visit. She's a warm and charming person who loves meeting new people.

Tentative plans are being made. They may include, but are not limited to, visiting both the Garner and Knightdale Veterans Memorials, and the Raleigh National Cemetery. The full itinerary will be available in the near future.



# VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT



JOE NELSON

435 Greentree Drive

Raeford, NC 28376

[Jnelson\\_nc@yahoo.com](mailto:Jnelson_nc@yahoo.com)

(252)626-4888

The Veteran and Family Support Program is a program designed to provide educational topics to assist the Auxiliaries in providing assistance and support to veterans and their families. We offered various topics including mental health support, suicide prevention, and awareness programs. The program is aimed to assist the Auxiliaries with valuable information in providing support to veterans who may be struggling with various veteran associated issues like mental health issues, financial and food instabilities and support to their families who may also be impacted.

Monthly topics for this program year included caregiver support, veteran suicide, food banks, and USO (United Service Organizations) support. These topics are chosen to address the specific needs and challenges faced by veterans and their families. The program provides resources and support to help address these issues and improve the overall well-being of veterans and their families.

One of the key topics of focus for the Veteran and family Support program this year is suicide prevention. The program provides resources and support to help prevent suicide among veterans, including education and training programs. It also offers mental health services to veterans who may be at risk of suicide.

In addition to suicide prevention, the monthly program topics also focuses on raising awareness about mental health issues and the importance of seeking help. It offers educational programs and resources to help veterans and their families better understand mental health issues and the treatment options available.

The program also provides support to veterans and their families through various veteran support programs. These programs offer assistance with employment, housing, and other needs. The program also works closely with national veteran service organizations to provide additional support and resources to veterans.

The Military Assistance Programs provide various types of assistance to active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. The program offers financial assistance, educational resources, and other forms of support to help military families thrive.

Awards and citations are given to auxiliaries for most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

## Auxiliary Outreach Program North Carolina VFW Auxiliary 2025-2026

This program is all about what we can do to help our communities. It is a program of donation of time, not money. The goal is to help our community hand in hand with other organizations.

Basic steps to follow:

- \*\*\*Find local groups that can use our assistance.
- \*\*\*Discuss the project and vote on it at your meeting.
- \*\* \*One auxiliary member should be present at the event at the event.
- \*\*\*Wear your auxiliary attire.
- \*\*\* Then make sure to REPORT.

President Anna's theme is:  
"Serving our TOTO-LY Oz-Some Veterans"



Since Hurricane Helene we all have seen how much this program is needed. The food, clothing, and supplies have saved many lives in North Carolina. There is so much volunteering needed more than ever.

Call or email if I can offer help. Phone 3366571770 Email- [pattyharris@skybest.com](mailto:pattyharris@skybest.com)

Patty Harris,PDP  
1565 Spicer Mountain Road  
Sparta,N.C.28675

## Americanism



My name is Jeanette (Jeannie) Platt and I have been the Treasurer of VFW Auxiliary 670 since 2021. I am the proud wife of Marine Veteran Mike Baker who is also my high school sweetheart. This year I am tasked with being the Chairwoman of Americanism. This is an important part of our programs as the goal is to inform and teach others the importance of respecting our flag, our veterans, POW/MIA's and Veterans and Flag Holidays.

National VFW Auxiliary Ambassador and Patriotic Instructor Diana Russle-Milton has asked the following questions, "Why are you proud to be an American and how do we show our pride in America."

I ask that all auxiliaries for North Carolina take part or report on each of the different parts of Americanism. Reporting is now open and with the new year starting lets make North Carolina stand out and show how proud we are of our Veterans and how we teach others to celebrate them and our country.

### Program Reporting

**Flag Education (Promote Patriotism)-** Organizing with youth groups or schools to teach our youth the importance of the flag. By teaching them flag etiquette in regard to how to display, fold and hold it. History of the flag: why does the United States flag look like it does? What do the stars and stripes mean? Teach youth the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. Teach them how to salute the flag, stand for the national anthem etc.

**Flag Disposal-** Partner with your VFW Comrades and boy/girl scouts to have a retirement ceremony and teach our youth how to dispose of the flag properly. See a tattered flag, ask the owner of said flag if they would like a replacement or if they would like you to retire the flag for them.

**Patriotic Holidays-** Listed are the main patriotic holidays.

Memorial Day: Last Monday in May,

Armed Forces Day: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May.

Flag Day: June 14<sup>th</sup>

Independence Day: July, 4<sup>th</sup>

POW/MIA Remembrance Day: September 19<sup>th</sup>

Veterans Day Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>

Put together a program or event to celebrate these days. Don't forget to also celebrate the birthdays of our military services. Army, June 14<sup>th</sup>; Air Force, September 18<sup>th</sup>; Navy, October 13<sup>th</sup>; Marine Corps, November 10<sup>th</sup>; and Coast Guard, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Promotions**

When having events or celebrating anything in regard to Americanism/Patriotism please make sure to share on your Facebook pages both individual auxiliary pages and on your district auxiliary pages. Make sure to use #AuxiliaryPatriotism. Be proud to share knowledge about our flag and our country's patriotic holidays. As history shouldn't be forgotten and all our heroes should be remembered.

If you have any questions please email me at [j.m.platt83@gmail.com](mailto:j.m.platt83@gmail.com) or call me at

910-599-8044

Your 2025-2026 Americanism Chair

Jeanette (Jeannie) Platt



## “Buddy”® Poppy



Donna Wright, Chairman  
Donna1023m@aol.com



The origins of today's VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old woman named Amy Ross.

In 1922, Ross made it her mission to help find jobs for the thousands of unemployed veterans in Detroit.

### THE BEGINNING

News of Ross' efforts reached cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to build on Ross' vision of supporting veterans.

On Jan. 7, 1925, the VFW National Home was founded, helping to fulfill the VFW pledge to “honor the dead by helping the living.” Later that spring, the Home welcomed its first family in an old frame farmhouse, Mrs. Pollett and her six children. Pollett had become suddenly widowed and lost her husband's military pension.

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

# VFW Auxiliary Department of north Carolina Historian/ Media Relations



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

It's time to inspire our members and communities by telling our story through media. The Department of North Carolina has over 70 Auxiliaries united by the call to serve veterans and their families and promote patriotism in our communities. Whether your Auxiliary is large or small, you can use media to share your story and record its history.

## Media

Media allows us an opportunity to share and brag about what Auxiliaries at all levels (local and District) are doing for our veterans, their families, and our communities. Many of our seasoned members utilize Facebook while many of our younger members prefer Instagram. So, what is stopping your Auxiliary from utilizing those two social media platforms? Did you know that those two platforms can "talk" to one another, and you can cross-post to both platforms by linking your two profiles together? There are other media outlets that can be utilized as well.

- Reach out to your members and friends using social media. Create an Auxiliary Facebook page, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, or Pinterest.
- Use video! Videos are a great way to communicate; they are more visually engaging than written content and a great way to deliver information.
- Many of us have smartphones and it's easy to record, upload and share videos on social media.

## Reels

This year, National is focusing on Auxiliaries using and creating Reels to spread the word about our Programs and what you're doing in your communities. I know you are asking yourself, "What the heck is a Reel?"

- Reels are full-screen vertical videos up to 90 seconds long. They feature a suite of editing tools and audio tracks, as well as trending voice/sound snippets. Reels allow you to add captions, stickers and backgrounds;

upload video clips; use a range of filters and loads more.

- Reels can be made up of a single video, several clips edited together, still photos or some combination of photos and video. Reels can be posted to both Instagram and (which has 1.3 billion users!) and Facebook. Reels have outstanding visibility and usually appear at the top of your feed.
- Descriptions and hashtags should be used for the Reels as well and those are easy to add.
- Visit MALTA Members Resources, Historian & Media Relations, to read about how to create a reel.

Please continue to use traditional methods of communication to get information out. Email, monthly or quarterly newsletters, flyers, newspapers and magazines are time-tested ways to share Auxiliary news and events. You should recognize your members who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, volunteer work, etc. Remember to include the 5 W's (who, what, when, where and why) when recording a video, writing a post for social media or an article for a newsletter. Details matter!

## Department President's Official Visit

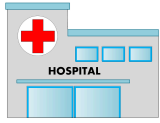
The Auxiliaries will be capturing photos and videos of the Department President's visit as well as events that take place in the Auxiliaries throughout the year. I am requesting that each Auxiliary Historian submit a minimum of five (5) photos of the Department President during her visit to your District. Also submit photos of events, fundraisers, meetings and ceremonies that take place in your District. This is your opportunity to brag about your District/Auxiliary to the Department President. I recommend that you post your story to the Department Historian Facebook page or send your photos to Historian & Media Relations Chairman Barbara Beard, 198 Oakridge Dr, Raeford, NC 28376. Make sure it's something you are proud of!

## Monthly Tips

Each month I will provide valuable tips and information on how to use different types of media to better communicate with your auxiliary and the public. Be on the lookout for information about the following:

- Types of Media
- Do's and Don'ts of Social Media
- Examples of how National Uses Social Media





HOSPITAL PROGRAM 2025-2026  
Sandra Johnson-Leu  
Department Program Chairman  
[ctrysun@embargmail.com](mailto:ctrysun@embargmail.com) 919-906-7592



Welcome to another program year. The Hospital program is one of the oldest Programs in the VFW Auxiliary, starting in 1914. There is so much we can do through this program to support our Veterans. Fund raising, donations, visits, activities, volunteering. The ways can be endless.

Our biggest goal is to recruit volunteers. The more volunteers we have, the more we can do for our veterans. Volunteers can be anyone. Members, non-members, youth, family members. The hospital program has been expanded to include facilities that are not only VA hospitals, but local hospitals, veterans' homes, nursing homes (both VA and non-VA), and clinics. Each of these facilities always appreciate volunteers assisting in many ways and areas. The opportunities are based on the facility you are volunteering at. You do need to be sure to contact the facility to check on the requirements for the volunteers there.

VFW Auxiliary members may participate in activities voted on by the members of your Auxiliary. This can include monthly or quarterly bingo with the patients. Snack bags taken to the facilities. Members can make items such as lap robes, hats, quilts, etc. You can make Valentine cards to place on the meal trays for the Veterans. For each holiday, the VA facilities in North Carolina hold specific activities to assist the Veterans in need in the Community.

The VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) program was created to serve in VA Medical facilities in partnership with Veteran Service Organizations. Each of the 4 VA Facilities in North Carolina have designated Representatives to communicate with the members the needs of each hospital They are your direct connection to the VA hospital your Auxiliary is assigned to.

North Carolina has the following VA Hospitals to serve: Asheville VA Medical Center – Joyce Preston, VAVS Rep Durham VA Medical Center – Sandra Johnson-Leu, VAVS Rep Fayetteville VA Medical Center – Amelia Bennett, VAVS Rep Salisbury – W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center – Farres Upton, VAVS Rep.

Please remember to make your annual contribution to the Hospital Reserve fund. It is with this contribution the Department can make a donation to each of the 4 VA Medical Centers on behalf of the members. Also, any cash donations you wish to make to a VA Hospital must be sent to the Department Treasurer with a contribution sheet and letter as to how you wish the donation to be used.

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

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 2025-2026 *Be an Advocate! Be Informed! Be Engaged!*

*Lighting the way between veterans' families and legislators with a wave of gratitude.  
Thank You for Your Service—Turning our Gratitude into Action*

*Every time we say, "Thank you for your service," we are acknowledging the sacrifices made by veterans and their families. But we can go beyond words and translate gratitude into action. Our Legislative Program empowers us to advocate for policies that improve the lives of veterans, service members and their families by tuning our appreciation into meaningful legislative advocacy. Your efforts, combined with the nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members, can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day. Join the chorus of voices that will ring out in legislator's offices this year!*

*We will learn to "Follow up with Gratitude." After in-person meetings with local legislators, follow up with an email or thank-you card. Establish Legislative "Gratitude Days" of action to send legislators a message of thanks*

*Establish specific days of action where Auxiliaries commit to contacting legislators with a message of thanks, while also urging them to support legislation that benefits veterans, and more!*

Study the issues laid out clearly in the **VFW Priority Goals**. The VFW focuses on these to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. The goals are grouped by six areas of concern: Budget; Health Care; Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; Education, Employment and Transition Assistance; Military Readiness; National Security; Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA.

These goals are released in January of each year by the VFW on the VFW National website:  
<https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/advocacy/prioritygoalsbrochure>.

**VFW Action Corps Weekly:** These goals are released in January of each year by the VFW on the VFW National website at: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. To identify your congressional representatives, visit the VFW website at: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Address>. Please **keep track of all the new sign-ups**, you will need to report that total for the year.

**Step by step—A Bill:** To follow the progress of a specific bill through the stage of the legislative process by its number or by a key word or phrase go to: <https://www.congress.gov/>.

**Advocates in Action:** We need to "*Speak the language*" and navigate the legislative process effectively. Be familiar with the Priority Goals and the VFW Key Bills in Congress. Sign-up for Action Corp Weekly AND respond to them! Communicate with your legislators and elected officials (via phone, email and personal visits). Be brief and to the point. Stick to one issue per phone call or email.

**Appoint a Legislative Chairman for your Auxiliary** that will stay on top of the issues. Get involved with Town Hall meetings.

Be sure to **VOTE in ALL elections** and assist others in doing so. Use MALTA Member Resources under Legislative and teach others to. **DO NOT** endorse any candidate on behalf of the VFW or VFWA—remain neutral. **DO NOT** wear any VFWA attire when campaigning for a candidate. Many of you will have



Municipal Elections coming up in the fall. With the 2026 Mid-Term Elections coming soon, your Representatives will be campaigning in your districts. Find them! Attend events and talk to them.

## ***Legislative Program Awards for Auxiliaries***

**Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals.** Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals. Entry form is required and *available in MALTA member Resources*. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026, for Judging. Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 Auxiliary National Convention.



**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



# 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 President Anna Holm's Theme: Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans

"Having a strong membership base is what draws someone to become a member of that organization. Our membership is the core of our organization. As members, we have the responsibility to help the families of our veterans and foster true patriotism. -Mike Maruszak, National Membership Ambassador.

I look forward to serving as the Departments Membership Chairman for the 2025-2026 year. I want you all to know that I am committed to doing my part in helping you each succeed in your membership goals. This is not just our opportunity to grow, it is an opportunity to learn from each other and to make a difference for our veterans and families. Together we can do **Toto-ly Oz-Some** things this year. Each and every one of you holds the key to membership and our continued growth.

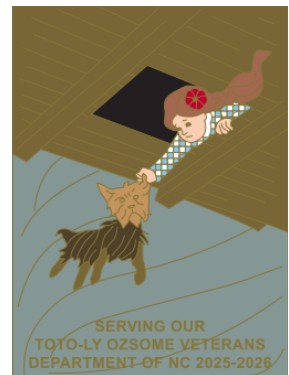
The 2025-2026 year representatives will be Western (Winkie) Becky Rowe, Central (Emeral City) Johnnie Cox and Eastern (Munchkin) Tina Szafarski.

## Awards for Members

- ☐ **Recruiter Pin** to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the Auxiliary
- ☐ **National Membership Achievement Award** each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the Auxiliary will receive a National Membership Achievement Award. **VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.**

## AWARDS For Auxiliaries

- ☐ \$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2026.



**Please remember to read the Monthly Mail!!**



Again, I am looking forward to being the 2025-2026 NC Department Membership Chairman. Please always feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Angi Hardy

National Membership Ambassador Mike Maruszak

## 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  
[feperini@prodigy.net](mailto:feperini@prodigy.net) - 401-652-0315

June 2025

Hi to all Auxiliaries and Districts, I am your new scholarship chairman for this year 2025-2026. The scholarship program is divided into two parts, the VFW National Scholarship Programs and the Auxiliary National Scholarship Programs. Each of these scholarships encourage patriotism, assist students in attaining an education and help students reach their full potential.

**VFW NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS** (For these two programs the Auxiliaries should try to work together with their Post members to promote the programs).

**PATRIOT'S PEN:** A youth essay contest open to students in grades 6-8 who are enrolled in public, private, parochial school or home school programs. The grand prize is \$5,000.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:** An audio-essay program for students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in public, private, parochial school or home school programs. The grand prize is a \$35,000 scholarship.

Both the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy themes are **"HOW ARE YOU SHOWING PATRIOTISM AND SUPPORT FOR OUR COUNTRY?"**, the student entry deadline for both programs are due to Posts by **October 31, 2025**. You can find information; instructions and can download application forms for the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) under the community tab.

### **AUXILIARY NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**

**CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP:** Open to any Auxiliary member ( a member for at least one year), their spouses and children. This is the only scholarship limited by membership. The scholarship is \$1,250 awarded to one winner in each of the four conferences. Entrant must be at least 21, complete the application <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education/> and submit an essay of 300 words or less. Deadline is February 15, 2026, to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

**YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST:** Open to any student in grades 9-12. Students submit an original two-dimensional piece of artwork. Entry must be completed during the current school year and submitted to the Auxiliary by March 31, 2026. The first-place winner will receive a \$15,000 scholarship. To download an entry form, visit [www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships).

**3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST:** Open to any students in grades 9-12. Students submit an original three-dimensional piece of artwork. Entry must be completed during current school year and submitted to the Auxiliary by March 31, 2026. The first-place winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship. To download an entry form visit [www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships).

Please try to get out and spread the word regarding these scholarship programs, you can post this information on your Auxiliary websites, newsletters and social media. Try to designate a person who will distribute applications to the schools to be given to their students. Brochures and applications available at [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education) and in MALTA under Member Resources.



## **VFW AUXILIARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM CHAIR**

My name is Marge Gray, I am a Veteran of the US Navy, and I am also a lifetime member of VFW Auxiliary Post #7034. This year, I have the honor and privilege to serve as the Youth Activities Program Chairman for the NC Department VFW Auxiliary.

To quote Ms. Shannon, our National Ambassador, “the youth of today are the members of the future and what we show them now by promoting patriotism, being kind and active in our Veterans’ lives and communities, will make the difference to how we are portrayed by their families.

This year our goal is to establish, reconnect, and/or expand our new and existing partnerships with our Youth Groups. Youth groups such as elementary and high-school students, school clubs, after-school programs, home school students and organizations like church youth groups, Scouts, youth sports teams, youth community service groups, etc. Through these partnerships we can engage our youth in one or more of our programs, such as **Patriotism through Literacy** and **Reading Buddies**. My plan, for the Department, is to work on this together as a team, so no one has to go it alone. I have included both the National Ambassador’s and my own contact information above, please feel free to contact me as necessary.

With this being the summer break, schools will not be back in session until August, and most youth organizations operate on the same schedule as their school systems. So, let’s take this time to strategize and create a plan to put into action once school is back in session. Get yourself a notebook (preferably with pockets), sit down with your team, and let’s start writing our plans down, as we meet and work together through this year. Start by gathering the following information:

- List of youth groups that your Auxiliary is currently working with, including their points of contact information:
- List of youth groups that you could reach out to, and ways to find their leaders contact information:
- Start brainstorming plans for promoting the following Youth Activities Programs:
  - Patriotism through Literacy
  - Reading Buddies
  - Illustrating America
  - Creative Patriot Art

I will work on getting a Zoom or Teams meetings set up so we can brainstorm and share our ideas with each other. Please provide me with the names and contact information for each Auxiliary Youth Chair, as soon as possible. Include the following information:

- Name
- Email address
- Phone number (indicate if you can receive or send text on this phone)
- Preference of Zoom, Teams or any other form of online communications.

Once we have finalized our plans, I will have you send them to me. I am so excited to be working with each of you and coming up with some fun challenges to award Auxiliaries in the coming year.

Respectfully,

MARGE GRAY	<a href="mailto:ml.gray@hotmail.com">ml.gray@hotmail.com</a>
PO Box 56	704.902.8720 cell
Sparta, NC 28675	336.372.4689 fax
<b>NC Department Youth Activities Program Chair</b>	

SHANNON STANLEY	<a href="mailto:stanleyshannon98@gmail.com">stanleyshannon98@gmail.com</a>
2296 Kentwood Drive	419.961.7900
Mansfield, OH 44903-9650	
<b>National Youth Activities Ambassador</b>	

# Department President Anna Holm's Special Project

Dorothy is reaching out of the trap door in the house during the tornado to rescue Toto. I am asking our members to reach out to our veterans with mental health issues and rescue them.



## Somewhere Over the Rainbow...

A Veteran is hurting...

A Veteran is confused...

A Veteran needs help...

**Department President Anna Holm's Special Project** will help those Veterans.

## Veterans Mental Health

Department President Anna Holm's and Department Commander Edward Beard will have a joint special project.

All monies collected from both the VFW and the Auxiliary will be split equally between the 4 VA Hospitals in North Carolina. The money will be earmarked for mental health.

Her goal is to raise \$40,000 so that each VA would get \$10,000.

We will have some **TOTO-ly OZsome** Fundraising this year.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the goal of \$40,000 to help the NC VA Hospitals

**Veteran Mental Health Programs.**



Dept. NC Special Project Chairman

Becky Rowe, 4869 Pennington Meadows Circle, Rock Hill, SC 29732

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

314-393-5377

Post names with Auxiliaries

District	Post #	Post Name
1	6060	Ernest Simmons
	7312	Gates County Memorial
	10950	Outer Banks
2	2615	Goldsboro
	2771	Lenoir
	7032	Charles Gray Morgan
	9959	Mt. Olive
3	2057	Rocky Mount
4	7315	Havelock
	7547	Sampson County
	8986	Newport
	9133	Jacksonville
	9810	Warsaw
	9960	Cedar Point
	11119	West Craven
	7288	Calabash
	8866	Holden Beach
	9983	New Topsail Island
	10226	Oak Island
	10400	Boiling Spring Lakes
	12196	Leland
	1920	Mebane
	10607	Robert Lee Pate III
7	6722	Ernest Simmons
	7383	Franklin-Sloan
	9103	Robert R. Miller
	10225	South Wake County
	10999	Moore Walker Memorial
8	670	Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez
	6018	Ssg James B. Dennis
	10630	Bryce H. Swindle
9	4203	Henry C. Rancke Jr.
	5631	Stanley McLeod
	7318	The John Boyd
	10403	The James D. Henderson
10	2087	Major George E. Preddy Jr.
	2972	W. D. Hammer
	3074	Floyd Lee Berrier
	8297	Midway-Monroetone
11	1119	Cooleemee-Mocksville Memorial
	5352	Oscar L. Joyner Jr.
	7794	Captain Mark Garner
	9010	Brewer-Lowder-McCulston
	9436	Pilot Mountain Memorial
12	3006	Hudson-Miller-Tatum
	6365	Barbee-Turner
	8989	Poston-Perkins

Post names with Auxiliaries

	9134	Barringer-Holshouser
13	1160	Mecklenburg
	2423	James B. Crump
	544	Garland B. Denny Memorial
	6724	Paw Creek
	7775	Sgt. William E. Robinson
	9337	Absher-Flowers
	9736	Wilson Beatty
14	1706	William E. Shipp-Dwight E. Lockman
	2031	Statesville
	4066	George Loris Dover
	5305	Donald Lanford Drum
15	1142	Blue Ridge Mountain
	4286	Pat Ray
	7031	Stacy C. Eggers Jr.
	7034	Bruce Wayne Osborne
	7946	Ashley-James-Roten
16	891	Sgt. Daniel Frank Hyatt Sr.
	5206	Hedrick-Rhodes
	9116	Womack Bradley Pold County Memorial
17	4309	Lewis E. Jackson
	5202	Waynesville
	6812	Allison-Bristol
	7339	Macon County Memorial





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## ***Celebrating 2025-2026 National President Lois Callahan***

### ***New Rhinestone T-Shirt***



**Ladies Navy Blue Short Sleeve V-Neck T-Shirt  
Gildan 100% Cotton**

**PRICE \$24.00 each**

### **Order Form**

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE:	QTY:	Amt \$
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
M	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
L	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (only checks will be accepted for pre-orders).**

Make checks payable to: R.M. Corporation

Mail order form along with your check payment to the above address to pre-order your shirts.

**Order forms must be received by 5/30/2025.**

**PRE-ORDERED SHIRTS TO BE PICKED UP AT NATIONAL CONVENTION.**

**Individual shirts will be for sale at National Convention in Columbus. OH.**

Cash, check or credit card will be accepted at National Convention.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!**



# VFW Auxiliary Department of North Carolina

## Are you a Toto-ly Oz-Some Auxiliary?

The following criteria MUST be met to qualify for the Toto-Ly Oz-Some Auxiliary Award

(Use this form as a checklist to help you ensure all criteria is met.)



Auxiliary Installation must be entered by June 30, 2025



Auxiliary President and Treasurer must be bonded by August 31, 2025.



An Auxiliary Representative (President, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice) must attend 1 of the Department Training Sessions



All officers must have dues must be paid and received at National by December 31, 2025.



Auxiliary Quarterly Audits must be received by the Department Treasurer. As per our bylaws; Sec. 814.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – Due August 31, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – Due November 30, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – Due February 28, 2026  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – Due by May 31, 2026



All Department Contributions must be paid by December 31, 2025.



Auxiliary must be 100% + 1 in Membership by April 15, 2026



Auxiliary reporting must be 100% in all programs by April 15, 2026



An Auxiliary President or representative (Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice) must attend all properly call District Meetings and schools of instruction as per our bylaws; Sec. 810

\_\_\_\_\_ Fall District Meeting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Winter District Meeting  
\_\_\_\_\_ District Convention  
\_\_\_\_\_ School of Instruction

President and Department Program Director will be tracking this information. The Department President will consider personal observations and observations of Department Representatives regarding the performance and/or leadership of the Auxiliary in determining results

Date received by President \_\_\_\_\_

## Thinking Thursdays



The Department has held Motivational Mondays for the last two years. I'm going to switch some things up. We're going to have Thinking Thursdays. These meetings will be held the last Thursday of the month so that information given out at that time will allow Auxiliaries to have it before their next monthly meeting. I'd like for every Council member to attend. It would be beneficial for a representative from each Auxiliary to also attend. I'd like District President's to contact any Auxiliaries not in attendance to recap what went on

during these meetings.

June 26, 2025 – Introduction of officers to members and Zoom Etiquette

July 31, 2025 – What to expect this year

August 28, 2025 – Recap of National Convention

September 25, 2025 – Recap of District meetings

October 30, 2025 – Fall C of A and Southern Conference

November 26, 2025 – held on Friday because of Thanksgiving – End of '25 duties

December 26, 2025 – held on Friday because of Christmas – Upcoming District meetings

January 29, 2026 – Winter C of A

February 24, 2026 – held on Tuesday because of National President Visit – Recap of Mid-Year Conference

March 26, 2026 – Spring District meetings and National President Visit

April 30, 2026 – End of Year reports

May 28, 2026 – Are you ready for Convention

Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions about the meetings. I'm going to try to keep the meetings short and do not expect it to be more than 1 hour each time.

## Zoom Etiquette

Have you ever attended a video conference and watched what other people are doing in their video? Some of it is distracting, some of it downright distasteful, and some of it just plain annoying. Below are some guidelines to follow when attending a Zoom meeting.

- **Maintain eye contact** – Participants should remain focused in the camera's direction, avoiding shifts in attention (looking out the window, typing on your computer, multi-tasking, etc.) It is especially important to maintain eye contact by looking at the camera when speaking. Hosts should consider the camera as another person and look at it during their discussions.
- **Mute the microphone** – The microphone may be muted when you sign in. If not, setting your audio to mute eliminates all annoying and unexpected background noises in your environment. The host has the option to mute everyone's microphone and then unmute them when the time for questions arises.
- **Position the camera & use proper lighting** – Participants do not want to see the top of your head (camera facing down on you) or up your nostrils (camera facing up). Instead, the camera should be at eye level. Your room should be well-lit with no bright light directly behind you or in the camera's view. Make your face visible by having a strong light behind the camera, but try to avoid light reflections in eyeglasses. To accommodate small screens, your camera and seating position should be adjusted to fill the frame as much as possible.
- **Use your normal voice** – Speak strongly and clearly. Because there might be a one second audio delay for some conferencing, use a brief pause between speakers to assure the full audio signal has been transmitted. When many people are speaking at once, it is difficult for participants to discern both the conversation and the person speaking. Repeat questions or comments to be sure that all participants heard them.
- **Allow time for others to answer or to make comments** – Often participants will wait to see if the host has a comment or answer to the question before they will respond. When questioning a participant, identify them by name first, and then ask the question so they have a chance to unmute and respond.
- **Avoid interrupting**
- **Raise your hand to speak** – or better yet, use a nametag to get the host's attention.
- **Limit distracting side conversations**
- **Be aware of the microphone placement** – The microphone can magnify sounds that normally occur during meetings. Don't rustle papers or tap on the microphone or table.
- **Keep body movements to a minimum** – Avoid distracting movements like swaying, rocking, or pacing. Move and make gestures naturally a safe distance from the camera.
- **Restore eye contact after an audio-visual presentation** – After a slide presentation or screen/document sharing, restore eye contact with the participants.
- **Sharing on-the-fly writing** – Zoom has a built-in whiteboard, but be sure you are very familiar with it before attempting to use it.
- **Family issues** – Inform the family that you will be on a video call to reduce interruptions or distracting sounds (spouse or children shouting, dog barking, baby crying, etc.)
- **Using the Chat room** – Keep all chats short and on topic. Do not ask about lunch, drinks after work, or "did you hear..." It's very difficult for the host monitoring the chat room to weed out real questions through a maze of small talk.

- **Leave the keyboard alone** – No one wants to hear the clicking of your keys on the keyboard. The only acceptable reason to use the keyboard is to type questions or responses in the chat room.
- **No personal grooming** – Be careful of what you do in front of the camera. Participants don't want to watch you comb your hair, pick your nose, clean your teeth, etc. Turn off your video and microphone if you need to do anything at all personal or distracting.
- **No eating** – Unless the meeting is about sharing food, no one wants to watch you eating. It is distracting and unprofessional, not to mention crumbs will fall into your keyboard.
- **Dress appropriately** – You should wear something similar to what you would wear to an in-person meeting. If you choose to not have appropriate clothing on from the waist down, DO NOT get up in the middle of the meeting with your camera running.
- **Stay inside** – Wind and background noise makes your device's microphone adjust and your voice may sound muffled.
- **Choose an appropriate environment** – Make sure it is uncluttered (no unmade beds), appropriate (no bathrooms), and where you are less likely to be interrupted. If your device can handle the processing requirements, use a virtual background - but keep it simple.
- **If you must step away** – Turn off your video and microphone.
- **Leaving a meeting** – Always sign off with a formal goodbye so people know you aren't coming back.

**ASHEVILLE VAMC**

<b>AUX #</b>		<b>AUXILIARY</b>	<b>DIST</b>		<b>AUX #</b>	<b>AUXILIARY</b>	<b>DIST</b>		<b>AUX #</b>	<b>AUXILIARY</b>	<b>DIST</b>
891		Asheville	16		5202	Waynesville	17		7034	Sparta	15
1142		N Wilkesboro	15		5206	Hendersonville	16		7339	Franklin	17
406 6		Shelby	14		5362	Morganton	14		7949	Jefferson	15
428 6		Newland	15		6812	Haysville	17		9116	Columbus	16
430 9		Brevard	17		7031	Boone	15				
519 8		Canton	17								

**DURHAM VAMC**

192 0		Mebane	5		7312	Sunbury	1		10225	Garner	7
205 7		Rocky Mount	3		7315	Havelock	4		10950	Outer Banks	1
277 1		Kinston	2		7383	Cary	7		10999	Raleigh	7
297 2		Gibsonville	10		8297	Midway/Monroeton	10				
606 0		Elizabeth City	1		10607	Burlington	6				

**FAYETTEVILLE VAMC**

670		Fayetteville	8		7288	Calabash	5		9959	Mount Olive	2
261 5		Goldsboro	2		7318	Southern Pines	9		9960	Swansboro	4
406 2		Grifton	2		7547	Clinton	4		9983	Holly Ridge	5
420 3		Rockingham	9		8866	Holden Beach	5		10226	Oak Island	5
563 1		Sanford	9		8986	Newport	4		10400	Boiling Springs Lake	5
601 8		Fayetteville	8		9103	Spring Lake	7		10630	Hope Mills	8
672 2		Lillington	7		9133	Jacksonville	4		11119	West Craven	4
703 2		Greenville	2		9810	Warsaw	4		12196	Leland	5

**SALISBURY VAMC**

1119		Cooleemee	13		5305	Newton	14		9134	Rockwell	12
1160		Charlotte	13		5352	Kernersville	11		9337	Gastonia	13
170 6		Lincolnton	14		5464	Monroe	13		9436	Pilot Mountain	11
203 1		Statesville	14		6365	Locust	12		9736	Croft	13
208 7		Greensboro	10		6724	Paw Creek	13		9811	Kings Mountain	13
242 3		Indian Trail	13		7775	Charlotte	13		10403	Wadesboro	9
300 6		Salisbury	12		8989	Kannapolis	12				
307 4		Lexington	10		9010	Clemmons	11				