

# TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY

## OUR TWO ¢ENTS

VOL 35 ISSUE 3

September 2024

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

**“Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice”  
“From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans”**

### COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT—IRMA SOLIS

September was here and now it is gone!!! How time flies. But it did leave us some wonderful memories. The visit to National Home was full of information and activities starting with the Freedom Walk. The weather was cool and the wind convinced some of us to stay indoors. We got to meet members from all over the States and got a chance to talk about what projects their state is working on. It was wonderful to share ideas and get to know a little about each other. Another thing that started in September was the President’s Official Visits. It is such a great feeling to walk into a room and be received with such love and get to put faces and names together. The members all worked together not only in

the meeting but in the projects they are working on. Great job District 14!! Another great experience was the Astros game!!! So many people in attendance at the game but that fact and the fact of technology helped contribute to the making of the 50/50 project a true success. Thank you Astros!!!! Official announcement will be coming!!!! The biggest “Thank You “ goes out to Joe Akers for working so hard to make this project a reality. For now, let us all be “Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice” and keep in mind that “From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans” is always in our hearts. As we look forward to October, blessings to all.



## Secretary Corner

STATE JOINT PRES/CDR Project-- YES we are still supporting the President's Special project. If you donate the \$75.00 by the deadline in the Program book of 10 December 2024, your name as District President or Line officer, Auxiliary number and name will be included on the plaque for Dept Of Texas project. If the VFW donates also, their name will go on the plaque. Nothing has changed except that it is not being considered a "Joint Project" per the VFW state CDR and QM. Their programs had already been set and this was not included in their program book. Department will send a list of names that have donated to Chairman Cindy Robertson for those that have sent in but did not send her a copy of the check.

YOUTH ILLUSTRATING – is listed on memstats in a different color. We forgot to include it in the program book for suggested donations, but Department still needs to have the funds to keep the Department awards

going. Any donation for the program will be credited and is needed for the younger artists. This is the K-8 Artist categories that we have winners participating in. Just last year TEXAS winner won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at national.

MIDWINTER ROOM RESERVATIONS ARE available on the Texas VFW Website.

[www.texasvfw.org](http://www.texasvfw.org)

The link for the hotel has been enabled by the Omni. It can be found on the Texas VFW website by clicking the "RSVP Today!" beside the upcoming events. Please let your Membership and Auxiliaries know. VFW will be publishing the banquet tickets and details at a later date once finalized with the hotel.

MIDWINTER LUNCHEON registration will be sent out as soon as that is finalized with the Hotel.

THE ASTROS  
FOUNDATION



*Special Thanks to Karen Jeffrey and Joe Akers  
for getting the Auxiliary involved in the  
Astros Share2Care program.*

*Auxiliary 50/50 to be received for 20 Sept Game was*

**\$23,162.00**

**Support the Astros as they support their community!**

## OFFICE INFO

### Office Information

**Hours:** Monday – Thursday  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Phone:** 512-834-9190

Asst Secretary/Treasurer    Press #1  
Secretary    Press #2  
Treasurer    Press #3

**Fax:** 512-834-0747

### Addresses:

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PO Box 15285  
Austin, Texas 78761

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8503 North IH 35  
Austin, Texas 78753

### Office Staff

Secretary—Natalie Copeland

Treasurer—JoElla Menn

Asst Secretary—Margie Menzel

Asst Treasurer—Shary Tutt

## Program Coordinator

*Debbie Daniel*

As we step into October, we have obligations, programs and deadlines to meet. Your Department chairmen are always available to answer questions and assist the membership with any of the programs. Don't hesitate to contact them if needed.

Reporting to your department chairmen is very important, so make sure you stay on track with those monthly reports. Again, contact your chairman or myself if you have any questions or need

assistance with reporting. Report forms are in your program book. Remember that **You** are a very important part of **Team Texas**. One of the most **important** parts of our team. Why?...Because **you** are the worker bee. The one that is out there working the programs we promote. And, remember that you are very deeply appreciated for your hard work and dedication to our veterans and active duty military. Have a fantastic month and may God Bless!

## NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

*Renee Clark Chairman*

Hoping the fall season starts soon!

Now that all our children/grandchildren are back in school...

Maybe take a few minutes to put together a little Thank You gift for the school nurses.

If you are friends with someone who works at a local school - ask them what the best thing would be to make their school nurse SMILE! Then, have some kids draw, write, etc. a few thank you notes to the nurse. Hey, make it special for the "spooky days" that lie ahead after the kids got to much Trick or Treat candies.

Maybe give the nurse a gift card to Sonic, Starbucks or even a Pedi/Mani. Even male school nurses would enjoy that...

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## MEMBERSHIP

Gerald Spradlin, Chairman Cyndy Yancey Co-Chair

We got a wonderful membership report from Member Rose Mary Wells of Post 2205 in Denton, and wanted to share it with all of you:

*"I am happy to report that I have recruited a new member. I am happy beyond words, because this recruit is my great-granddaughter, Falyn Lee Weaver, who has been coming to the post since she was 6 or 7 years old and as she got older, she talked about joining the auxiliary, but as a great she couldn't. Well, then her mother, who is a life member, remarried. Falyn became eligible through her stepfather, so here we are. My name is Rose Mary Wells, I am a life member at Post 2205 Denton. My daughter and Falyn's grandmother, Loree Lewis, is a member at 2205 and Falyn's mother, Alison Halbert, is a life member at 2205 as well. Hopefully other members will do Just1One, the year is young, so we will work on it. Thank you."*

In this time of blended families, we have possibilities for adding new members. Have you been blessed with gaining new family members from the blending of your family with new family members? Think about the possibilities that might add to your membership roles.

This brings us to something our National Ambassador pointed out. **What if my Post closes? What happens to my vibrant and active Auxiliary?** Bottom line: It closes too... BUT your members don't go away. We retain those members! How we retain them (whether "At-Large" or in an Auxiliary) is dependent on how we manage things. So, we need to start creating a plan to **GRAFT** those branches into our tree! When it's time to graft those branches, we are going to get those Auxiliary mem-

bers into other active Auxiliaries in their District or nearby! The way we do this is by being open to the possibilities that adding new fruit/branches can bring!

So, here's the challenge:

- Create an "already a member" welcome packet;
- Reach out to an Auxiliary facing challenges due to Post closure;
- Visit them; let them see that you & your Auxiliary are ready to graft them into your Auxiliary;
- Inspire their transition to another Auxiliary (Give them HOPE);
- Ask about their current projects and encourage them to bring them with;
- Offer the opportunity for them to merge their leadership with yours;

### **Remember Every Tree Has a Purpose:**

#### **Fruit Trees:**

Feed the members, these are the doers. Of these the Pear Trees are the most important; they are the mentors!

#### **Nut Trees:**

Bring the energy and the fun!  
Often challenging but usually ideas people!

#### **Ornamentals:**

The NUMBERS!

These are super important to the IRS and Congress!

#### **Shade Trees:**

We all have them...

#### **Evergreens:**

Our "Legacy" Members

Provide consistency and institutional memory.



All of these trees have a **network** of branches that feed the tree and roots that stabilize it. VFW Auxiliary Membership: *Who's in your #Vetwork?* Until next month... recruit, recruit, recruit!!



# National President's Dinner

**\$10**

**January 15th, 2025  
5pm - 7pm**

Ingleside VFW Post 6386  
1452 State Highway 361,  
Ingleside, TX

Meet with our VFW Auxiliary  
National President, Brenda Bryant

And enjoy a dinner consisting of  
**Smoked Pork Loin, Green Beans and Salad**



**RSVP @**  
<https://forms.gle/ASoXAadGpfVjdRXY8>

Questions?



Michelle Bird  
361-834-3557

[michellebird753@gmail.com](mailto:michellebird753@gmail.com)

## WAYS & MEANS

*Tracy Frink Chairman*

*Lydia Leal Co-chair*

Thank you to all the Auxiliary's that have sent us reports. They are not required but we do love seeing what you all are doing. Continue to send in your money for pins, calendars and raffle tickets. All are due by Mid-Winter. Make sure each Auxiliary brings 5 grab bags valued at \$5 each, to Mid-Winter. A reminder to each District that you need to put together a basket

valued at \$100, raffle them off in your District and send money to Department by Mid-Winter. If your District is unable to do this, please make your basket and bring it to Mid-Winter and we will do a raffle with all baskets brought to us. Please feel free to contact us at any time. Thank you for all that you do for the Department of Texas and our Veterans.

## AUXILIARY OUTREACH

*Pamela Fintel -Chairman*

*Iлона Shipley – Co-Chairman*

Happy Halloween...This is your chance to reach out to your community and ask to volunteer with their "TRUNK & TREAT", "HALLOWEEN BASH" or other Halloween activities. Reach out to your local Libraries. They always have things going on for Halloween.

Get your youth involved with your programs. It is important to let them know what we are doing and why we are volunteering with our communities. Let's teach them to become GREAT volunteers. Our youth are our future!

Our Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador stated in her Blog that "In every community there are other organizations that are working to enhance the lives of others. These are the organizations that you are looking to partner with. The Most successful Auxiliaries in this Program are those that actively growing their network of outside organizations."

Get your information out there in your

community by making some flyers. Have a headline like, Our members can be your Volunteers. Make sure you put your contact information. You can pass these flyers out to your local Chamber of Commerce, Fire Department, City Hall, Police Department, Libraries, School District, Animal Shelters and Churches. You can also ask your local restaurants if you could leave some flyers. Remember when you are out dropping off these flyers, wear an auxiliary shirt or a Auxiliary Badge. Also put this flyer on your Auxiliary Facebook page and your Auxiliary Website.

The Auxiliary Outreach program was created to bring the VFW Auxiliary together with the community, by working side by side. Let's show our community how much we care and lets give back to our Community.

Check out this website [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) if you are having trouble finding programs to Volunteer or help with.

Fall: cool air, beautiful colors, football, festivals, pumpkins and togetherness. What a great time to reach some of your goals.

District Presidents, I sent you a letter that I hope let you know I am here for you. Some of you called, with some areas of concern. But, your thoughtful, knowledgeable ideas of how to handle the problems are to be commended. You are taking care of business in a timely manner and not letting these auxiliaries go into the Yellow-Light or Red-Light phase. I am “*Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice*” you are making to keep our VFW Auxiliary Strong.

With that extra burst of energy, from the cool breezes, we are ready to review and make sure all requirements to make The Circle of Excellence, for Texas, and the Auxiliary and District “Star of Excellence” requirements that are due by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, are done ASAP.

Now is the time to make sure ALL officers Dues are paid. MUST be paid before Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. but now is the time for them to lead by example. 990's are due by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Audits are due for July, Aug., Sept. Have you attended the VPR's your Post has had? Review, Review and DO.

What a spectacular Christmas gift for all of us....to be 100% in Membership. This can be reality, not just a dream, but will take all of us working together. It is not too early to start getting all info gathered for those Mid-Year Report.

I do not have a name, from each Auxiliary, of at least one Mentor. Thank you to those mentors that have sent in reports, of the work you are doing.

I encourage every member to go to Malta and review the ***Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation Guidebook***. Go to Guidebook 1, page 1. This will give you the starting point for learning the duties of officers' roles, to educate members and ensure the future of your auxiliary.

Mentors – you play the most important part in ensuring our ***Roots to Our Branches – continue Extending Service to Our Veterans***.

**We** are stronger together. **We** are bigger than you & I. **We** base decisions on what is best for the Auxiliary. **We** do not keep score. **We** are a healthy organization. **We** do not try to change others. **We** work to improve the Auxiliary by improving ourselves. **We** look for the positives, not lay the blame. **We** are respectful, compassionate, and understanding. **We** have long term goals. **We** put our Soldiers and Troops as top priority. **We** are members of the VFW Auxiliary.

Keep up the Good Work. Till next time – God Bless.

## **BUDDY ® POPPY/NATIONAL HOME**

*Sally Jarret chairman  
Sarah Begley Co-chairman*

*“Trick of Treat, get on your feet and give us something good to **READ!**”* With the weather changing, what a perfect time to continue with your “Buddy” Poppy drives. So just know, if your VFW doesn’t supply your “Buddy” Poppies, you can order them yourself from the VFW Store. Stock up NOW before its too late!

My Co-Chair and I visited the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. They hosted the “Celebrating America’s Freedom Event”, aka CAFÉ. The CAFÉ allowed us to meet all the VFW Auxiliary line officers and the Past Department Presidents (PDP) from all over the country. We also had the pleasure meeting our National Ambassador, Jodi Hollinger from PA. From patriotic parades to campus tours, the “score cards” gathering stars to listening to a live jazz band while eating lunch, what a FUN TIME had by ALL. Thank you to the VFW National Home staff for such a warm welcome. They made it such an unforgettable visit.

The “Buddy” Poppy display will remain

the same from the Department Development Program Booklet and is on page # 22, the President’s Logo (cross with Texas). Thank you to the ones that reported thus far.

### **\*\*NEWSFLASH\*\***

Effective October 1<sup>st</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>, if you or someone in your post or Auxiliary purchase a VFW National Home **Centennial Lifetime Membership** and you send proof of the purchase to us, you will receive a “Buddy” Poppy personalized tote bag from us!! That’s right!! You will receive a **BEAUTIFUL TOTE BAG** for your hard work getting that membership!



“Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice”

“From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to our Veterans”



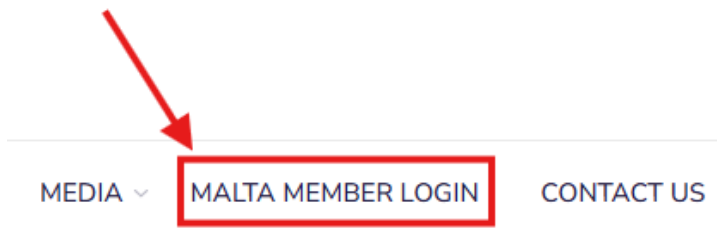


Howdy, Brothers and Sisters! I hope that you've been finding the website to be more updated and more accessible as time has gone on. A big thing that I think will help is the inclusion of a link directly to MALTA from our own website. You can find this under the link for MEMSTATS when hovering on the "Home" option in the header menu. I would like to **CALL TO ACTION** all of our Presidents, Auxiliary and District alike to push for member MALTA connection. Get your members signed up. Make sure that when you ask in your meeting for a show of hands on who has signed up, that you take

grants, getting a mobile version of the National Program Book, the Podium Book, and other documents, and more. Encourage your members this month to get connected and play around in the site a little bit. If you're on your game and your membership is all signed up, let's take it a step further this



## VFW AUXILIARY Member Portal



note of those that have not. MALTA is helpful for all members, no matter how involved or "titled" they are. MALTA can be a great resource for a number of things: renewing annual membership or upgrading to lifetime membership easily, applying for cancer

month. Encourage your membership to get the MALTA app on their phone. Did you know there's an app? When signed in to MALTA, you will see links in the top right corner of the site that will get you to the downloadable version of MALTA on Apple and Android phones. Please reach out to me if you have any issues finding anything or getting anyone connected. If you have noticed anything I might have missed or not gotten to yet on updating our state website, please send me an email at [marissahanderson1120@gmail.com](mailto:marissahanderson1120@gmail.com), and I will do my best to address all questions as soon as possible. *Let's get Texas connected*



Greetings to All:

Well Election Day is fast approaching. Have you registered? There are many bills benefitting our Veterans and their families that are in need of our support. This is why it's very important that we stay informed, and one way is by signing up for Action Corps weekly.



What is VFW Action Corps and what is its function? And why is it important for us to sign up for it? The VFW's Action Corps is the VFW's grassroots lobbying effort. Located in communities across the globe, this group works to inform and educate veterans and service members on the initiatives and policies that affect them and takes the voice of veterans to local, state and national lawmakers. It also informs us with "Action Alerts"! These are alerts that require our immediate attention. Yes, by keeping informed of current information posted in Action Corps we can help support the VFW fight for our Veterans rights.

There are many ways that we can assist in making sure our Veteran's rights are protected. One way is to be strong advocates. Attend your town hall meetings. Right your congressmen and VOTE! Keep in mind that no matter how much we advocate for our

veterans, it's done in vain if we don't go to the polls and VOTE!

Continue to work with your VFW in all that they do. Giving them our "Unwavering Support!"

I am pleased to see in your reports how you are sharing my illustration on how a bill is created and passed, how to write a letter to your representatives, and about how you're partnering with your VFW to provide Veterans with free transportation to the polls. Ambassador Guyette encourages us to invite our local council members to special events bringing awareness in how we support our veterans, families and our communities. Be sure to give them a list of our Priority Goals and explain to them why they are so important to our veterans.

Now that you are aware of how important it is to receive Action Corps Weekly, Auxiliary, we have an assignment, and it is to ensure that we put forth all efforts in advocating for our veterans. This election year is the time for us to make sure our veteran's voices are heard.

I am looking forward in hearing about all your events advocating for our veterans and joint events with your VFW.

Being Thankful and Grateful for the  
Sacrifice.

From Our Roots to Our Branches, Serving  
Our Veterans

OH WOW It's already October we have Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan coming up on the 9<sup>th</sup>, the Navy Birthday



on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and ending out the month with Beirut Bombing. How will you inform your community that you are "Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice."? Perhaps you can write an article about the Beirut Bombing then submit it to your local

newspaper. Perhaps you could recognize ALL Navy Veterans by hosting a birthday party for them on Sunday after church with cake and ice cream. "From our roots to our Branches extending service to our Veterans" Service to any and all Veterans is always welcome in any community. How ever you choose to inform your community please let us know we would love to see your reports and pictures.

### **#Auxiliarypatriotism**

In your October meeting you should be discussing your upcoming November holidays. November 10<sup>th</sup> is the Marines Birthday, then November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. It's only a couple more months and mid-year reports will be coming due then Mid-Winter in Corpus I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there. Thank You everyone for all you do.



# VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Missi Palmore Chairman

We are circling the last quarter of 2024 as we swim into the waters of October. Taking a page from our National Veterans and Family Support Chairman Evan Smiley's blog, I want our vision for October to have a sense of extending support *SHARK* style. Let's make waves in Veterans and Family Support by channeling our inner sharks Texas style! And we all know those are gonna be some big 'ole sharks in the water.

Don't forget you and your Auxiliary do not have to do everything, but you can all do something. Each Auxiliary has a different footprint—find the footprint that is best for you. Find your auxiliaries targeted “shark” for this month—and unleash the attack for October! Here are a few big sharks circling around for the month:

## **October is Domestic Violence**

**Month:** Let's face it, life is hard. And for some of our military brothers and sisters there can be an extra strain. Always be aware of those around you to lend an ear or a hand. Some reports states 1/3 of women have been victims of domestic violence. And domestic violence is vastly unreported, and the victim suffers in silence. Violence is not limited to physical abuse, it can also take the shape of emotional, verbal, and financial. Seemly minor daily struggles can mount up in a way of violence towards those we love is never right. If you feel someone is in danger, find the voice to talk to them or speak for them. There are services provided for assistance or to make donations.

[vfw.org/assistance](http://vfw.org/assistance)  
[vfw.org/ways-to-help](http://vfw.org/ways-to-help)

## **October 26<sup>th</sup> is the Day of the Deployed:**

Today's look of a deployed family does not look like it has in the past. Families are not necessarily secured on base, deployed may be both parents, family structure characteristics,

or the look of the deployment. Do you know who at your post/auxiliary are deployed family members? They don't always reach out for assistance. With that, how are you being proactive to help those deployed family members in your post, auxiliary, and/or community? Ensuring they don't feel “left behind” or alone.

## **V&FS Pillar | Childcare for Active-Duty Service Members:**

School is in full swing; trust me I know! With that comes all those extra-activities also. Parents sometimes don't know if they are coming or going. Don't think huge like full-on day-care center---but look at the community around you. Single parents/one vehicle households/too many places to be/etc. How can you/auxiliary make a difference to those service members families? Take that burden off their mind and probably make a great friend or 2 along the way!



This big, beautiful state of Texas has thousands of wonderful Auxiliary members with beautiful souls. I know those souls have hearts as BIG as the state of Texas!! The weather is hopefully going to give us a little taste of fall so we can get out and get into the community a little bit more. Find ways to connect with your community the way it works the best. Meet some new members, broaden your circle of influence, open your ears, and ask how we can help you. So, let's circle the wagons my sharks and get working on some great things for this October.

I want to thank every fabYOUlous Auxiliary that has submitted reports so far. I love seeing the reports and pictures. A few have brought some tears and big heart swells of pride. Ya'll sure do love and support those Texas Veterans and Families!!! Keep up the super Texas size support for our Veterans and stay fabYOUlous ya'll!!!!

## HOSPITAL

Glenda Hunt

A Big Texas Greeting to All our Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers in this Great State!

Seasons are changing! Fall is coming! A time of pumpkins and scarecrows! Cooler weather is coming even in Texas! Shortly we will be in the Holiday Season! This is a special time for volunteering and serving our veterans.

This is the time to interact with and provide happiness to our Texas veterans. Our auxiliaries are volunteering in VA facilities and Non-VA medical facilities and clinics. Be creative. Need some creative ideas! Do what you have already done! Just refresh the idea! Use your experience in planning Birthday parties, Holiday parties or Baby showers to plan your event. Plan and execute your event with the approval of the facility and your Auxiliary. Make sure there are enough volunteers to complete your event.

Remember using [www.nationaldaycalendar.com](http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com) to see the fun National Days you can do for the Veterans. October 4<sup>th</sup> is National Cinnamon Bun Day! October 18<sup>th</sup> is Recognition of Women Military Service Day. Happy Frog Day! The smallest action that is done with compassion, honor and respect will

result in the biggest smiles (: **Reminder to all the VAVS Representatives** to meet with their Chief CDCE (Voluntary Services) to schedule your annual Joint Review (AJR) in November. These AJR's must be received by National Headquarters no later than January 15, 2025. Both the VAVS Representatives and their Deputies will participate. The Hospital Chairman may also be invited. The purpose of the review is to make a joint annual inventory of the VFW Auxiliary's participation ( Volunteer hours and donations) in the Medical Center's volunteer program during the previous year and to develop goals for the coming year.

**Reminder to all Hospital volunteers** to abide to the medical facilities policies and procedures at all times. **You are appreciated!**

**Serving our Veterans with a caring heart and helping hands!**



## HAPPENINGS

10/07: Global War on Terrorism and Desert Storm Veterans Day

10/13: Happy Birthday, U.S. Navy!

10/14: Columbus Day

Office closed!

10/21: National Pets for Veterans Day

10/26: Day of the Deployed

10/27: Navy Day

10/28: Statue of Liberty's birthday

10/31: Halloween

**10/31: Voice of Democracy entries due**

**10/31: Patriot's Pen entries due**



Suicide Prevention, Statewide Project  
State Commander Robert Martinez, Jr., and Madam State President Irma Solis

### One Tribe Foundation Mission Statement

To continue to grow our community that raises awareness and combats suicide by empowering Veterans, First Responders, Law Enforcement Officers, and their families through traditional and non-traditional therapies.

#### Our Purpose

Restore the value of life by empowering Veterans, First Responders, Law Enforcement Officers and their families.

Prevention begins with **Awareness**. This means educating ourselves and the public, opening up the conversation, and leaning to become comfortable with the uncomfortable and fear of being vulnerable. By doing this, we can identify then often avoid unaddressed issues that can lead someone to thoughts of suicide, and confront those issues as they come, rather than letting them accumulate into something much worse.

The next step is **Empowerment**. One of the biggest challenges Veterans and first responders face is finding a sense of purpose after service. 22KILL has built a vast network of organizations and resources across the country, and whether through its own programs, or through external sources, Veterans, first responders, and family members can find services for mental wellness and empowerment programs to help them find or rediscover that sense of purpose. The other side of this is **Engagement**. Often one may come to realize that all they really needed was the brotherhood and comradery that may have been absent from their lives since leaving service. The **TR1BE** allows service members to connect with like-minded individuals and gives them the opportunity to get involved with community events and projects and be a part of something great.

The VFW and Auxiliary is comprised of military veterans and family members. We encourage you to support our nations heroes and their families by donating to the One Tribe Foundation, 501 (c)3 organization.

**Please send a donation of any amount to Department of Texas VFW. Let us show kindness, gratitude and let them know how much we appreciate the awareness and empowerment of programs to help prevent suicide. (Earmark – Statewide Project State Commander or State President) Due by March 31, 2025**

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
Department of Texas VFW Commander

Irma Solis  
Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary President

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING SPECIAL EVENTS.

We would like to hear from you! Do you have suggestions for the Our 2 Cents, Let us know what you like or do not like.

Email to:

Secretary@texasvfwaux.org

Have a big event you want the Department to know about? Send it to us and we will get it in. Remember, these are put together a month in advance. Deadline for input is the 10th day of the previous Month.

## JOINT SPECIAL PROJECT (SUICIDE PREVENTION)

To comply with the Circle of Excellence points, Texas VFW has provided the auxiliary with a Joint project since the National Home one was not put in their books. See attached flyer. ANY DONATION in ANY AMOUNT can be made to TEXAS VFW EARMARK – **Statewide Project State Commander and State President.**

Make Checks payable to: **TEXAS VFW**

**P.O. Box 14468**

**Austin, TX 78761**

REPORT this donation under Veterans And Family Support OR Hospital as both support Suicide Awareness/Prevention.

You can still be a part of the National Home Wall with the \$75.00 donation as specified in the program book, as well as VFW Posts that want to contribute to the 100<sup>th</sup> centennial plaque with donation. Those donations go to TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY earmarked Special Project National Home.

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE AUXILIARY

*Lisa Dayhoff Grand President*

Whenever you walk around in a the difference between life and group of people, it's unusual for death for them. That's why I wear most people to pay attention to my colorful combat boots... as a what others are wearing on their conversation starter that leads to feet. Every once in a while, me sharing a version of this same though, you might notice and think story.

to yourself, "Oh, what a cute pair of sneakers!" While walking up to Cotton Patch Café last night, I saw a lady wearing a dress and shrug combination that I thought was so cute I just had to say something to her, which brought a huge smile to her face. It can be even more difficult to spot when someone is having a really rough day where their mental health is concerned, but every so often you might catch a glimmer of something. If you take the time to say something to that person, you could be making



Don't forget to reach out to your local MOC/MOCA for help with your suicide

awareness projects! They get credit for the Big Boot Campaign and you get an extra set of hands!

Our new TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS Facebook page has been an overwhelming success! Our followers are increasing daily, and I have been actively searching for and following Texas VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to further our goals of **Getting The Word Out AND extending our roots and branches.** I have shared posts from VFW and VFW Auxiliary National recognizing winners and promoting the upcoming Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Contests, along with recognizing Auxiliaries that have reported on events highlighting student participation and efforts to increase both state and national scholarship funds. Our Facebook posts have been shared by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries statewide, and their posts have been shared to the TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS page. All in all, I'd say Team Texas is gaining some major tailwinds!

With that said, I'd like to introduce our new dynamic QR Code, highlighting our new promotional:



As you hover your smartphone camera over the QR Code in the image, you'll notice a yellow button appear below on your phone screen. Click on that yellow button and you'll gain access to the informational pages and entry forms for all our scholarship and contest opportunities. Share this QR Code with EVERYONE, and steer them to the TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS page, and they'll be afloat with valuable Scholarships information!

Earlier I mentioned the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Contests. Interested students should ALREADY be busy working on honing the message they wish to convey to the judges. Those who have yet to start writing need to GET BUSY!! That October 31, 2024 deadline is approaching quickly – so don't miss the boat!

Also, please keep up the excellent job with reporting your activities and events! I've been able to create some great Facebook posts utilizing the information reported. You can also post these activities and events to your own VFW Post and Auxiliary pages, and I'll make sure and share them to the TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS page.

**BON VOYAGE & HAPPY SAILING!!**

Student Participation | Recipient Recognition  
| Community Awareness | Increasing the Fund



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