



2026
Department of Utah
98th VFW & 90th VFW AUXILIARY
STATE CONVENTION



Hyatt Place – Salt Lake City/Lehi
3700 North Outlet Parkway
Lehi, UT (Exit 284)
June 12 – 14, 2026



Utah





AMERICA



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Hal Roesch II Commander-in-Chief Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Hal Roesch II from Hampton, Virginia, was installed as the 112th Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 24, 2020, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Hal is a 20-year U.S. Air Force retiree serving from 1982 to 2002. He earned his VFW eligibility during his combat service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and overseas service as part of Southern Watch. Roesch is a recipient of three Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, and numerous other awards and decorations.



He joined the VFW in 1991 at VFW Post 3034 in Sumter, South Carolina, and became a Post Commander at VFW Post 4542 in Spring Lake, North Carolina. He now maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership at VFW Post 3219 in Phoebus, Virginia.

Hal has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as VFW Department of Virginia Commander from 2008-2009. On the national level, he has served on the Council of Administration from 2010-2012 and as the Inspector General from 2016-2017.

He is currently a financial advisor with First Command Financial Planning. He received his Associate of Arts in avionics system technology from the Community College of the Air Force.

Hal is a Life member of Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, American Legion, Military Order of the Cootie, and the VFW National Home for Children.

He has one daughter and son-in-law; Sara and Jason Tricker, and two grandsons, Max and Owen.

Hal is married to his beautiful bride, Beth, and they reside in Hampton, Virginia.



Sandra Uzell

*National Chaplain
2025-2026*

Sandra Uzell of Moreland Hills, Ohio, was elected to the office of National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 112th National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. She is now in the third of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2028-2029.



She is a Life Member of Al Santos Lyndhurst Auxiliary 7536 in Lyndhurst, Ohio, which is named after her father. She joined on the eligibility of her husband, Clayton, a Vietnam veteran, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1965.

Sandra has served the organization in many capacities including, Auxiliary, County, District and Department President. On the National level she has served as National Council Member Area D, National Color Bearer, Big Ten Conference Chairman for Americanism/Patriotic Instructor and Scholarship Programs, National Sponsorship Committee Chairman and National Appeals & Grievances and Ritual Review Committee Member.

Sandra holds a bachelor's degree in nursing and was a registered nurse. In addition, she holds a hot air balloon pilot license, is a professionally trained clown, balloon decorator and floral designer. She is a life member of the VFW National Home and Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA) #92.

Her family includes three daughters, three sons, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys Broadway musicals, Candy Crush, Sudoku and spending time with her family.



Utah



Department of Utah
Welcomes You to The

98th VFW and 90th VFW Auxiliary

Department of Utah
State Convention

Hyatt Place – Salt Lake City/Lehi
3700 North Outlet Parkway
Lehi, UT



ACTION CORPS



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Carrying the Voice of 18 Million Veterans

Our nation made a promise to those who serve, and we fight to ensure it's kept

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receive VFW Action Alerts!



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Current VFW Action Alerts!



VFW ACTION ALERT

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



Comrades and Auxiliary

Members,

On behalf of the Department of Utah, it is my honor to welcome you to the 2026 State Convention in Lehi, Utah. I would like to give a big welcome to our National Representatives for this convention: Past Commander-in-Chief, 2020-2021, Hal Roesch and National Auxiliary Chaplain 2025-2026, Sandra Uzell. We are proud to have you join us for yet another milestone in our department.

Specifically, I want to thank Adjutant/Quartermaster Dennis Parizek for his dedication to our Department and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. With his council, he has kept me on the right track, and I am very grateful to him.

My Senior Vice Commander, Tim Von Bon, has been a big help with advice, attending events and attending Post/District meetings. Jr. Vice Commander Glenn Spencer has also attended events and meetings on my behalf and has had good talks with the Posts and Districts. Of course, where would I be without my Chief of Staff Rich Ludwick? Not only has he helped me throughout the year, but he often joined me at events, went to meetings and listened while I spouted off about something that was said or became an issue. We were usually able to come up with a solution, or a better way to handle the situation. Judge Advocate Tammy Flake is passionate about this organization and has a way of sharing that passion. Chaplain Tom Mckinnel has not only led us spiritually but has overseen our Hospitality Room. That could be spiritual, too.

The Auxiliary is just plain remarkable. I cannot thank them more for everything they do for the VFW. There are too many to name here, so thank you VFW and Auxiliary who have been there for our department.

This year the Department of Utah organized this year's convention. Of course, the person who has coordinated it, once again, is Comrade Parizek. SVC Von Bon took on the making of the program and early registration; Chief of Staff Ludwick volunteered for the registration table in the hotel; JVC Spencer helped me with the swag bags. This has been a team effort for certain.

This convention represents a pivotal time for our organization. We have achieved immense success this year, ensuring that the needs of our veterans, service members, and their families are met. Over the next couple of days, we will review our accomplishments, plan for the upcoming year, and elect new leadership to guide us forward.

Yours in Comradeship,

Laurie A Charry
Commander
VFW Department of Utah





***VFW , Department of Utah
Auxiliary President
Natalie Palmer-Sheppard***



As my term as your President comes to an end, I am deeply grateful. Serving with you this past year has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Together, we not only advanced our mission, we supported our Veterans and their families with dedication and care.

I wanted to thank my husband, Past Department Commander, James C. Sheppard, and my family for always being there and supporting me.

I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished, from volunteering at the Posts to supporting our national programs. I will cherish the friendships and the memories we created. Thank you for trusting me to lead, for your hard work, and for your unwavering support.

It has been an honor to serve as your President for the 2025–2026 year. Because of your dedication, we have had a successful year, achieving 100% membership, awesome achievement with our programs and phenomenal success in leading each other.

I want to thank the line officers, members, and mentors who helped throughout the year. Thanks also to my home Auxiliary and Post 12087 for their undying loyalty and support throughout this year. Special thanks to the officers and committee chairs for your tireless effort. Our achievements are a testament to the dedication of our members, who truly care about our veterans and their families.

Respecting and acknowledging that “*No One Makes It Alone*” while supporting our Veterans and working tirelessly with the VFW to have a successful year in membership, in joint projects and supporting our National Representatives. Recognizing that all efforts were for the veterans and their families.

I am excited to see what the next chapter holds for our department and will continue to support our veterans in any way I can.

I am proud to pass the gavel to our new leadership, confident that they will continue our vital work. I encourage everyone to offer them the same support you gave me. Thank you for allowing me to lead this great team.

In friendship and service, and sincere dedication to our veterans.

Respectfully,

Natalie Palmer-Sheppard

Natalie Palmer-Sheppard, President
VFW Auxiliary, Department of Utah
2025-2026



“No One Makes It Alone”

2026-2027 Theme
“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Student Entry Deadline: Oct. 31, 2026
Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award



Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW’s) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 26,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme.

This year’s theme is,
“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Scan the QR Code to download an entry form.

2026-2027 Theme
“What A Veteran Taught Me About America”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026
Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award



Each year, more than 800,600 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW’s Patriot’s Pen® annual youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1 million in local and national awards. Each first place VFW Department (state) winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

This year’s theme is,
“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Scan the QR Code to download an entry form.



Women Veterans

Ensuring women veterans receive veterans' benefits and services that honor their brave military service is one of the VFW's top priorities. Currently, women comprise 15 percent of the active-duty military and 18 percent of the Guard and Reserve. With the steady increase of women wearing our nation's uniform and their increased role in military operations, it has never been more important that we ensure women veterans have a VA that is ready and able to care for them when they transition back to civilian life.

To gauge how well VA is serving women veterans and to identify areas where it needs to improve, the VFW's women veterans' advisory team commissioned a survey of women veterans to collect direct feedback from women veterans around the country. After analyzing survey responses and direct feedback from nearly 2,000 women veterans, the VFW has identified multiple recommendations to improve VA health care, outreach, training and homeless programs.

[Read the VFW Survey of Women Veterans Summary of Findings here.](#)

VFW WOMEN VETERANS SURVEY FINDINGS:



Lt. Clarence E. Allen Jr. VFW Post 409 and Auxiliary



***Post 409 and Auxiliary have served
Veterans and families for over 106
years.***

***We support our National Officer
Commander-in-Chief
Carol Whitmore & Auxiliary President
Lois Callahan***

**PROUD TO SUPPORT INCOMING DEPT.
OFFICERS**

***Tim Von Bon as Department
Commander
Michelle Russo as Department
Auxiliary President
For the State of Utah for 2026-2027***

Post and Auxiliary Officer 2026-2027

Post Officers

**Commander – Stan Martinez
Sr. Vice – Carla Martinez
Jr. Vice – Sandy Beshear
Quartermaster/Adjutant – Dan Zaharias
Chaplain / Benefits Advisor - Jim McKee
Judge Advocate - Sandy Beshear**

**Trustee 1yr – Ski Kosierowski
Trustee 2yr – Jim McKee
Trustee 3yr – Delynn Zaharias**

Auxiliary Officers

**President – JoAnna Johannesen
Sr. Vice President – Cindy Leon
Jr. Vice President – Judy Martin
Treasurer / Secretary – Carla Martinez
Chaplain - Barbara Young
Conductor - Deborah Snow
Guard – Xion Perry
Trustee 1yr – Bailey Palmasanno
Trustee 2yr – Taffy Kosierowski
Trustee 3yr – Karen George**

Best Wishes for a Great and Successful Department Convention and a safe trip home



Candidate for State Commander

Timothy L. Von Bon
Gold Legacy Life Member
Max De St. Jeor Post VFW Post 8376



Eligibility: Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea
28 JAN 86 – 27 JAN 87
27 JAN 96 – 17 JUL 96
Korean Defense Service Medal
with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster



Welcome to 98th VFW and 90th VFW Auxiliary, Department of Utah, State Convention! I appreciate the trust you have shown in me during the last four years as your State Surgeon, State Judge Advocate, State Jr. Vice Commander, and finally State Sr. Vice Commander.

I would appreciate your support to become the 99th VFW, Department of Utah, State Commander. I will continue to be a mentor, assist and answer your questions, as well as provide training as needed.

Along with Comrade Parizek, the greatest Adjutant/Quartermaster in the world, I would like to send out a giant Thank You to all of the Department Staff and volunteers that worked hard to put this Convention together!



Michelle M Russo

Ben G Russo VFW Auxiliary #3586
Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom

This year, if elected Department President, we will focus on building on our rich foundation fortifying our Auxiliaries through collaboration, supporting one another, growing our impact and renewing our commitment to our veterans.

Together, We Rise by lifting one another, strengthening our organization, honoring our legacy and keeping our veterans at the heart of everything we do. United in purpose, and inspired by service, we will accomplish great things together.

VOTE

2026 NATIONAL
CONVENTION



ELECTION 2026

**TAMMY
FLAKE**

**FOR NATIONAL
COMMANDER IN CHIEF
OF VFW**

**CALL
TAMMY
931-551-
6484**



**WE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.TAMMYFLAKEFORVETERANS.COM



Cleveland-Day Post VFW Post 10900 And VFW Auxiliary Post 10900

We are Proud to Support Incoming
VFW Department of Utah
State Commander Von Bon and
VFW Auxiliary Department of Utah
State President Michelle Russo for the
2026 – 2027 Administrative Year

VFW Post 10900 Officers

Cmdr. Matt Keogh
Sr. Vice Cmdr. Roy Kunzi
Jr. Vice Cmdr. Fred Every
Adj/QM Russell Pogue

VFW Aux. Post 10900 Officers

President Sheila Steele
Sr. Vice Pres. Deborah deGeus-Gwinn
Jr. Vice Pres. Sheree Maughan
Secr. Brandi Craft
Treas. Tammy Maughan

Cleveland-Day VFW Post 10900
P.O. Box 682
Moab, UT 84532



2187 E Plateau Dr.
Moab, UT





VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Scholarships & Contests



[Home](#) / [Scholarships & Contests](#) / [Patriotic Art Contests](#)

Each year, more than 4,000 high school students from across the country participate in the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. The contest began in 1979 to recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth. This contest comprises only two-dimensional entries. The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is exclusively for three-dimensional art pieces.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present these National Scholarships to assist students who wish to further their education. These scholarship contests 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.

Link to website page: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

Youth Activities

The VFW Auxiliary works to teach our nation's youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, veterans and service members. We engage youth in positive volunteer experiences and believe every young person can find a place to serve that will improve their lives, as well as the lives they touch.

Illustrating America

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this national art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique.

Link to website page: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities/>



VFW Post 1481 and its Auxiliary wish you a safe and successful State Convention!



2026-2027 Officers

VFW

Angus MacIver, Commander
Michael Venter, Senior Vice Commander
Richard Mitobe, Jr. Vice Commander
Chuck Love, Adjutant
Gerald Bedel, Quartermaster
Jason Anderson, Chaplain
Ken Ingram Judge Advocate
Matt McGuire, Surgeon

VFW Auxiliary

Tami McCollum, President
Nona Brown, Sr. Vice President
Meagan Mitobe, Jr. Vice President
Cherie Freeman, Secretary-Treasurer
Judy Smith, Chaplain/Patriotic Instructor
Kathy Chester, Conductor
Miles Chester, Guard



Corporal Fred J. Grant Post 1481, 907 W 12th Street, Ogden, UT 84404 (½ mile east of I-15
from Exit 344 (12th Street) Phone: (385) 389-3548

VFW Post & Auxiliary 1481 – Fred J Grant CPL



Candidate for Sr. Vice Commander

**Glenn Edward Spencer
Gold Legacy Life Member**

Life Member Disabled American Veterans
Life Member Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW Gold Legacy
Life Member American Legion

Drafted in the Army July 18th 1966

Retired from the Utah National Guard as 1Sgt in 2002. He earned his VFW eligibility by serving in Vietnam April 1967 – May 1968 as company platoon Sargent. In 1978 he joined the 2/222 FA Utah National Guard.

His MOS with the Utah National Guard was BN Survey Chief, I CORP Survey Chief, BN Supply Sgt, and Battery 1Sgt. Besides his Vietnam campaign medals he has received both State and Federal Army Commendation medals, Saint Barber award, Meritorious Service medal and many other medals and ribbons.

Glenn joined the VFW in 2022 at Post 12087 in West Jordan, Utah, where he has served as Post Commander, State Judge Advocate, and State Jr. Vice Commander. I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for the VFW Department of Utah, Sr. Vice Commander for the 2026 Department Convention. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at this Convention.



Mt. Loafer Post 12061

Payson UT

We are small but we are mighty.
"ESSAYON'S"

Come join us at our Scottish Festival
July 10 and July 11

Bryan, Moyer, Pete, Bill, Tara, Leon, Stewart, Vern, Johnson, and Doug



Teacher of the Year

Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America.

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle, and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program.

Please review the new rules and eligibility requirements and [download the 2026 entry form](#) to nominate a teacher you know. Teacher nomination entries must be received at a local participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

Ben G Russo VFW Post & Auxiliary Post #3586

(aka Team 3586)

Welcomes Everyone to the 2026 Department of Utah
VFW and VFW Auxiliary State Convention

Our Canteen has Re-Opened and Welcomes Military,
Veterans, their Families and Supporters.

Help us Spread the Word!

#team3586

VFW POST 4918



AMERICAN FORK, UTAH

SERVING UTAH VETERANS SINCE 1946





Dennis Parizek
Department Adjutant/Quartermaster
2012-Present
VFW National Home Trustee
District 11

Gold Legacy Life Member
 Utah National Council Member 2016-2024
 Western Conference Chairman 2023-24
 Western Conference Vice Chairman 2022-23
 All-American Department Commander 2005-06
 Department Adjutant/Quartermaster 2012-Present
 All-American Department Quartermaster
 2014-16, 2018-20, 2022-25
 All-American District Quartermaster
 2017-18, 2019-20; 2021-22; 2023-24. 2024-25 All-
 American Post Adjutant
 2007-2009
 All State Post Quartermaster
 1995-96, 1998-99, 2009-2012, 2014-16, 2017-19

Welcome to our 2026 State Convention! I appreciate the trust you have shown in me by electing me as your Department Quartermaster the past 15 years and electing me as the VFW National Home District 11 Trustee.

I would appreciate your support for another term as your Department Quartermaster. I will continue to be your mentor, assist and answer your questions, as well as provide training as needed.

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted the Department in hosting this year's convention!

I am considering retiring after the upcoming year. If you are interested in being the Department Adjutant or Department Quartermaster, let me know.

Your Comrade, *Dennis Parizek*
 Cell (801) 695-5741 Email djdparizek@aol.com



Rich Ludwick
Candidate for State Judge Advocate
Miller-Frazer VFW Post 8307

Welcome to the 2026 VFW and VFW Auxiliary Department of Utah, State Convention. It's great to see everyone!

I would like to take the opportunity to ask for your support for State Judge Advocate for 2026 – 2027.

It has been a great year as Department Surgeon and as Commander Charry's Chief of Staff. I want to thank everyone for all the help I received this year. I want to wish everyone a good time at this year's Department Convention.



Serving Our Community



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David White
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dwhite@epii.com



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Alpha-Stim[®] is the drug-free, clinically proven treatment to alleviate anxiety, insomnia, and pain.

Get dramatic relief fast. Alpha-Stim is an FDA-cleared, easy-to-use handheld prescription medical device that treats anxiety without lasting side effects or risk of addiction. Get started at alpha-stim.com.

**Visit us in the foyer for more information
and any questions about Alpha-Stim.**

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.



THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Educate separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Accredited Service Officer.

Advocate for America's veterans and their families on Capitol Hill, ensuring *promises made* to veterans are *promises kept*.

Deliver morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

2,278

Number of VFW Accredited Service Officers across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

52,801

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Appreciation Program (MAP) events.

\$16.2 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2025.

\$1.48 million

Amount of academic scholarships awarded to 317 veterans and service members.

24

Number of testimonies provided to Congress in fiscal year 2025. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$3.14 million+

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributed to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

\$29,106

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 89% of the funds covered basic housing needs in fiscal year 2025.



JOIN THE VFW

Connect With Us



About the VFW

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves. In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.



The VFW by the numbers

1.3 million+

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,556

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

27,053

Number of high school students who competed in the 2024-25 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

61,926

Number of students who competed in the 2024-25 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



Helping struggling military families

13

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members**.

\$25,890

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members** covering housing for struggling military families.

12

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs.



Cutting red tape

164,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2025.

14,500+

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2025 resulting in more than \$187 million in disability compensation.

20+

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



Improving life in America

5.4 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

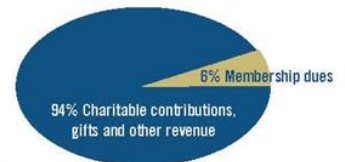
\$43.5 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.

The VFW Relies on Donations

The VFW is a 501(c), and programs are made possible through membership dues and tax-deductible donations from good-hearted Americans.

**Cost of VFW Program Services:
\$62.6 Million**



Source: VFW 2025 Annual Report



SUPPORT THE VFW

Learn more about the VFW at vfw.org.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

We are the nation's oldest veterans' service organization auxiliary. For more than 100 years, we have been serving veterans, service members and their families in countless ways. Millions of hours, millions of dollars and millions of tributes.

THIS IS WHO WE ARE.



"I am an Auxiliary member because our Programs help veterans in need, preserve our nation's patriotic traditions and educate youth."

—Jeanene B.



"I love supporting and honoring those who have, and are, serving to protect our freedoms."

—Nancy C.



"This gives me a chance to thank our veterans for everything they do."

—Sherry P.



www.vfwauxiliary.org



info@vfwauxiliary.org



[facebook.com/VFWAuxiliary](https://www.facebook.com/VFWAuxiliary)

JOIN US

Our organization comprises nearly a half million members from diverse backgrounds who have a common connection: all are relatives of a VFW-eligible veteran.*

Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.

*Eligible veteran does not have to be a member of the VFW.



Veterans & Family Support

424,644 Approximate number of veterans, service members and/or their families assisted

\$5.9M Total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families

2,446 Number of Auxiliaries that provided direct aid to veterans, service members and/or their families

Scholarships

\$725,172 Total amount of awards presented by Auxiliaries, Districts and Departments

Available Scholarships Continuing Education AGES 21+

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest
GRADES 9-12

VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest
GRADES 9-12

VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest
GRADES 6-8

\$47,500 National VFW Auxiliary scholarships awarded

Americanism

340,782 Number of American Flags and POW/MIA flags distributed and/or presented by Auxiliaries

20,833 Certificates given to businesses and citizens for flying the American Flag

2,298 Number of Auxiliaries that promoted, participated in, recognized any patriotic day and/or branch of service birthdays

Hospital

\$1.97M Total spent on all Hospital Program-related items and projects

256,394 Hours volunteered in VA and non-VA medical facilities

14,748 Auxiliary members who volunteered within the Hospital Program

Youth Activities

246,986 Youth Auxiliaries worked with

6,081 Youth groups Auxiliaries worked with

2,426 Youth recognized for their patriotism

Legislative

28,041 Contacts made by members to legislators regarding veterans' issues



HAPPY

250th Birthday

USA

SINCE 1776

2026-2027 Officers
Post Auxiliary

Rich Ludwick - Commander
James Ochoa- Senior Vice
Tonya Hood- Junior Vice
Tony Daly- Quatermaster
Ken Warnshuis- Adjutant
Bill Hall- Chaplain
Laurie Charry- Judge Advocate

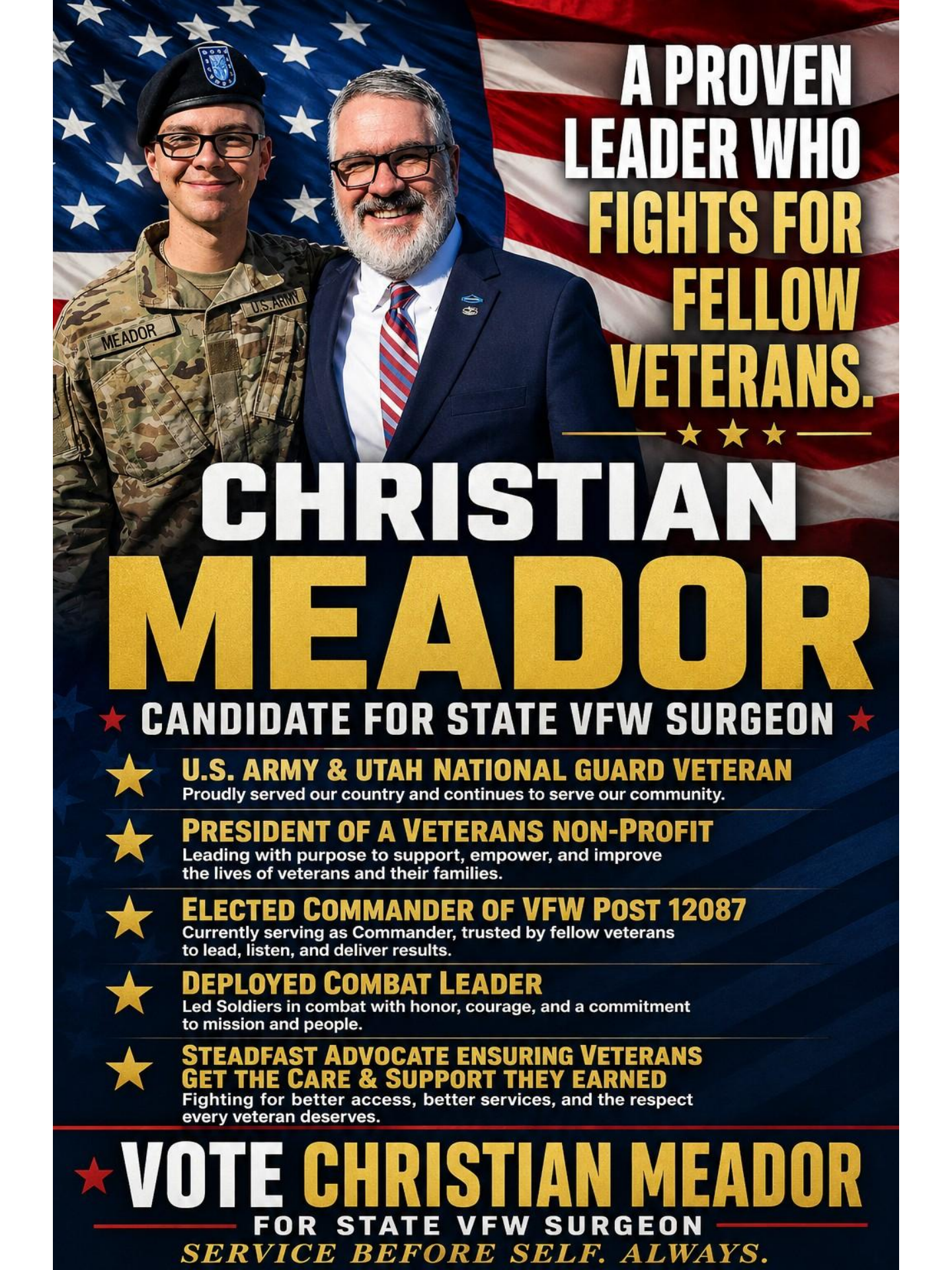
Niki Korous- President
Jeff Carnley- Sr. Vice
Brooke Garvin- Jr. Vice
Brenda Warnshuis- Treasurer
Raina Hall- Secretary
Raina Hall- Chaplain

Wishing everyone a successful convention and year!

**VFW POST 8307
& AUXILIARY**



1389 North Main Street,
Layton, Utah



**A PROVEN
LEADER WHO
FIGHTS FOR
FELLOW
VETERANS.**

— ★ ★ ★ —

CHRISTIAN MEADOR

★ **CANDIDATE FOR STATE VFW SURGEON** ★

★ **U.S. ARMY & UTAH NATIONAL GUARD VETERAN**
Proudly served our country and continues to serve our community.

★ **PRESIDENT OF A VETERANS NON-PROFIT**
Leading with purpose to support, empower, and improve the lives of veterans and their families.

★ **ELECTED COMMANDER OF VFW POST 12087**
Currently serving as Commander, trusted by fellow veterans to lead, listen, and deliver results.

★ **DEPLOYED COMBAT LEADER**
Led Soldiers in combat with honor, courage, and a commitment to mission and people.

★ **STEADFAST ADVOCATE ENSURING VETERANS GET THE CARE & SUPPORT THEY EARNED**
Fighting for better access, better services, and the respect every veteran deserves.

★ **VOTE CHRISTIAN MEADOR**

FOR STATE VFW SURGEON

SERVICE BEFORE SELF. ALWAYS.



VFW Post 8376

Cmdr. Marcelino Romero
Sr. Vice Cmdr. Hans Peterson
Jr. Vice Cmdr. Kenny Jacobsen
Adj./QM Kevin Smith

**Max De St. Jeor Post
VFW and VFW Auxiliary Post 8376**

**Is Proud to Support Incoming
State Commander Tim Von Bon and
State Auxiliary President Michelle Russo**

VFW Aux Post 8376

Pres. Don De St. Jeor
Sr. Vice Pres. Carol Bowers
Jr. Vice Pres. Jen Wilberg
Sec./Treas. Jill Von Bon



**Candidate for
State Judge Advocate
Darrell Moyer**

Mt. Loafer Post VFW Post 12061

Welcome to the 2026 VFW and VFW
Auxiliary Department of Utah, State
Convention. It's great to see everyone!

I would like to take the opportunity to ask
for your support for State Judge Advocate
for 2026 – 2027.

I want to wish everyone a good time at
this year's Department Convention.



VFW Department of Utah

Past Department Commanders



<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Post</u>
Guy Snyder ¹	1928-1934	409	Bruce Anderson ¹	1981-1982	3586
Dr Wm Preston ¹	1934-1935	2129	Melvin Richeson ¹	1982-1983	7442
Winn Templeton ¹	1935-1936	1481	AA Lorraine Robinson ¹	1983-1984	7737
Harold Slater ¹	1936-1937	409	Donald Myers ^{1,2}	1984-1985	8307
Walter Anderson ¹	1937-1938	409	Tom Kennedy ¹	1985-1986	3586
Col. A.O. Roberts ¹	1938-1939	1481	Gary Clark ^{1,2}	1986-1987	7398
James W. Latimer ¹	1939-1940	409	Donald Myers ^{1,2}	1987-1988	8307
Vernon Eldrige ¹	1940-1941	1481	Roy Brown ¹	1988-1989	8307
Barton Jones ¹	1942-1943	1481	AA+ Sanford Rosenthal ¹	1989-1990	3586
C. Ed. Lewis ¹	1943-1944	3586	Ted Evans ¹	1990-1991	1481
G.H. Goffe ^{1,2}	1944-1945	409	Daniel Montgomery ¹	1991-1992	7442
George P. Bowman ¹	1945-1946	1481	John Owada ¹	1992-1993	4355
Don T. James ¹	1946-1947	3586	AA Fred Peyton ¹	1993-1994	3586
Glen Thompson ¹	1947-1948	4355	AA Keneth Bezzant ¹	1994-1995	7398
J. Allen Pike ¹	1948-1949	1481	AA+ Sanford Rosenthal ¹	1995-1996	3586
Earle Miline ¹	1949-1950	2628	Roy Brown ¹	1996-1997	8307
Clarence Smedley ¹	1950-1951	1481	Johnnie Janes ²	1997-1998	9803
Harry Miller ¹	1951-1952	3586	AA Sanford Beshear	1998-1999	4355
Amos Ross ¹	1952-1953	1481	AA John Jones ¹	1999-2001	8307
Glen Johnson ¹	1953-1954	5891	Roy Kunzi ²	2001-2002	3586
Howard Baysinger ¹	1954-1955	4355	AA Glen Silvis ¹	2002-2003	2379
Arnold Bradshaw ^{1,2}	1955-1956	3586	AA+ Daniel Crossley ¹	2003-2004	3586
Alfred Bateman ¹	1956-1957	2628	George Hall	2004-2005	9413
Glen Eldrige ¹	1957-1958	1481	AA Dennis Parizek ^{2,3}	2005-2006	1481
Raymond Lester ¹	1958-1959	409	AA+ Norman Nelson ¹	2006-2007	1695
Don Pearce ¹	1959-1960	9322	AA Vernon Wade ¹	2007-2008	3586
Andrew Clements ¹	1960-1962	6154	AA Mike Baker	2008-2009	1481
WM. F. Heath ^{1,2,3}	1962-1964	409	AA Brent Neilsen ²	2009-2010	10900
Ken Yeates ¹	1964-1965	4355	Dennis Howland	2010-2011	1481
AA Charles Paris	1965-1967	7398	AA+ Matthew Stuart	2011-2012	3586
James Mason ^{1,2}	1967-1968	5787	James Theriault	2012-2013	12129
Tom Miller ¹	1968-1969	8307	Douglas Larson ¹	2013-2014	8307
Garth Hales ¹	1969-1970	4355	AA Lowell Tripp ¹	2014-2015	3586
Don R. Anderson ¹	1970-1971	9319	AA+ Danny Zaharias	2015-2016	409
James Shenwood ¹	1971-1972	1546	Wendy Griffin	2016-2017	3586
AA Benito Russo ^{1,2,3}	1972-1973	3586	Stanley Martinez	2017-2018	8307
Leonard Zobel ¹	1973-1974	5787	AA Nick Flake	2018-2019	12087
Howard Fite ^{1,2}	1975-1976	7898	AA Darryl Root	2019-2020	8376
John Oldroyd ¹	1976-1977	2126	Mark Luddington	2020-2021	10900
John Young	1977-1978	4355	David Johnson	2021-2022	8307
Daniel Alleman ¹	1978-1979	5783	AA Therral Curtis	2022-2023	4918
Dale Madsen ¹	1979-1980	1695	AA Heath Silcox ⁴	2023-2024	12087
AA James McKee	1980-1981	409	AA James Sheppard	2024-2025	7442

AA - All-American, AA+ - Triple Crown

1 - Deceased, 2 - Past National Council Member

3 - Past Western Conference Chair, 4 - National Council Member



VFW Auxiliary

Department of Utah

Past Department Presidents



<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Auxiliary</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Auxiliary</u>
Mertell Aldrich 1	1936-1937		Patricia Alleman	1982-1983	
Lilian Tempdon 1	1937-1938		Penny E. Knight	1983-1984	
Lois Waddinghan 1	1938-1939		Kay A. Hilton 1	1984-1985	
Elaine Slater 1	1939-1940		Mary Armstrong	1985-1986	
Ardel Eldredge 1	1940-1941		Gayle Housekeeper	1986-1987	
Muriel Thomas 1	1941-1942		Beth Montgomery 1	1987-1988	
Josephine Mordaunt 1	1942-1943		Gladys Gober 2	1988-1989	
Nona Decker 1, 4	1943-1944		Peggy Kosel 1	1989-1990	
Minnie A. Gordon 1	1944-1945		Josephine Brewer	1990-1991	
Mary London 1	1945-1946		Doris Walker 1	1991-1992	
Jenevieve Jensen 1	1946-1947		Hertha Bieschke 1	1992-1993	
Bergra Anderson 1	1947-1948		Bessie Peterson 1	1993-1994	
Clara Morgan 1	1948-1949		Deborah Spader 3	1994-1995	
Eva Edwards 1	1949-1950		Eva-Lee Fogelberg	1995-1996	
Evelyn Corgiat 1	1950-1951		Mary Myers	1996-1997	8307
Ida Goffe 1	1951-1952		Linda Silvis 1, 2	1997-1998	
Mary Call 1	1952-1953		Cindy Morton	1998-1999	
Delpha Bradshaw 1	1953-1954		Lynnette Miller 1	1999-2000	
Ethe McCarty 1	1954-1955		Darlene Burke 1	2000-2001	
Gilda Paxman	1955-1956		Blanche Peyton	2001-2002	
Miriam Taylor 1	1956-1957		Annette Jensen	2002-2003	
Elsa Decker 1	1957-1958		Barbara Young	2003-2004	8307
Hilna Dowling 1	1958-1959		Shana Kynaston (1/2 Yr)	2004-2005	
Mary Scothern 1	1959-1960		Bernadette Wolfe (1/2 Yr)	2004-2005	
Grace Ross 1	1960-1961		Carma Mangel 1	2005-2006	1481
Leah P Johnson 1	1961-1962		Irene Cuch 1	2006-2007	
Eva Yearsley 1	1962-1963		Sandra Grosh 1	2007-2008	
Vona Houtz 1, 2, 4	1963-1964	3586	Jolyn Ackley 1	2008-2009	
Martha Lester 1	1964-1965		Tina Leach	2009-2010	
Betty Beech 1	1965-1967		Elizabeth "Spydr" Benson 2	2010-2011	3586
Helen Marie Kerl 1	1967-1968		Sherry Howland	2011-2012	1481
Gertrude Viestenz 1	1968-1969		Tammie Larson 2	2012-2013	1481
Elizabeth Dalaba	1969-1970		Judy Loveland	2013-2014	1695
Toni Christensen 1	1970-1971		Jeannie Luddington	2014-2015	10900
Maria Mason	1971-1972		Carla Martinez 4	2015-2016	8307
Phyllis Handsaker 1	1972-1973		Judy Johnson	2016-2017	6395
Jerrine Oldroyd	1973-1974		Karen George	2017-2018	409
Wanda Young	1974-1975		Denise McLaughlin	2018-2019	8307
Janean Chambers Johnson	1975-1976		B-Jo Laing	2019-2020	
Shirley Howe 1	1976-1977		Penny Flake	2020-2021	12087
Thelma Byrnes	1977-1978		Jeannie Luddington	2021-2022	10900
La Veil Peterson, "Billie" 2	1978-1979		Wendy Griffin 2	2022-2023	3586
DeAnn Benson	1979-1980		Pam Griffin 3	2023-2024	3586
Linda Peterson 1	1980-1981	3586	Amber Silcox	2024-2025	12087
Connie McKeller	1981-1982				

Legacy Life Membership

Legacy Life membership enables VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.

Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life members. Once your Legacy Life membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the national organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are not only helping today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

You may also purchase a Memorial Legacy in the name of a deceased VFW Annual or Life member to help future generations know and remember their sacrifice and contributions.

Take pride in knowing you're not only helping today's veterans, but the veterans of tomorrow. Join the prestigious ranks of VFW Legacy Life members.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Legacy Level</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Legacy Level</u>
Carla J. Martinez	409	Gold	Danielle M. Leitch	6395	Bronze
Danny L. Zaharias	409	Gold	Elmer Inman	6395	Gold
DeLynn J. Zaharias	409	Gold	Richard D. Olsen ¹	6395	Gold
James C. Mc Kee	409	Gold	Dennis R. Mead	7442	Bronze
Sanford L. Beshear	409	Gold	David K. Johnson	8307	Gold
Stanley J. Martinez	409	Gold	David W. Major	8307	Gold
Angus T. MacIver	1481	Gold	Dennis E. Howland	8307	Bronze
Balentino J. Perez	1481	Gold	Douglas R. Larson ¹	8307	Bronze
Dennis L. Parizek	1481	Gold	Kenneth P. Warnshuis	8307	Silver
Enoch Archibeque ¹	1481	Bronze	Murl R. Bottomly ¹	8307	Gold
Frederick D. Jones ¹	1481	Gold	William R. Hall	8307	Silver
Gerald F. Bedel	1481	Gold	Kenny L. Jacobsen	8376	Gold
Harley A. Boyles	1481	Gold	Timothy L. Von Bon	8376	Gold
Jose H. Zamora	1481	Gold	Bradley Young	9413	Gold
Lawrence A. Gorski	1481	Gold	Brent C. Colledge	9413	Gold
Norman I. Nelson ¹	1695	Gold	Brent W. Neilsen	10900	Silver
Sidney G. Bodily	1695	Gold	Fred L. Every	10900	Gold
David R.. Mendoza	2628	Gold	Roy G. Kunzi	10900	Gold
Kenneth W. Omer	2628	Gold	Brian C. Bell	12061	Gold
Nicholas J. O'Connor	2628	Gold	William T. Collins	12061	Gold
Paul Solstad	2628	Gold	Glenn E. Spencer	12087	Gold
Thearon D. Crosby	2628	Gold	Nick A. Flake	12087	Gold
David R. Buchholz	3586	Bronze	Shawnn C. Hartley	12087	Bronze
Greg R. Winter	3586	Bronze	^{AL} Derek C. Bolton		Bronze
James K. Theriault	4918	Bronze	^{AL} George W. Hall		Gold
Jeremiah L. Merkley	4918	Bronze	^{AL} Joseph R. Bouley		Gold
Kraig A. Thorne	4918	Gold	^{AL} Mike Finnegan		Gold
Wendy Griffin	6154	Gold	^{AL} Nelson E. Thibault		Silver

1 – Deceased

AL – At-Large Member

Notes



2026
 Department of Utah
 VFW & VFW AUXILIARY
 STATE CONVENTION

Hyatt Place – Salt Lake City/Lehi
 3700 North Outlet Parkway
 Lehi, UT (Exit 284)

****Tentative Schedule of Events****

Friday, June 12, 2023	Arrival Day	Room
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Convention Registration	Hallway Rooms 1, 2, 3
3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open	TBA
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting	Meeting Room 1
6:30 p.m.	Commander’s Dinner (Invitation Only)	TBA
Saturday, June 13, 2023	Convention Day 1	Room
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Convention Registration	Hallway Rooms 1, 2, & 3
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Joint Opening	Meeting Rooms 2 & 3
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	VFW Council of Administration and Business Meetings	Meeting Rooms 2 & 3
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting	Meeting Room 1 Meeting Rooms 2 & 3
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon – Master of Ceremonies Glenn Spencer, Jr. Vice Commander	
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Business Meetings Resume	Meeting Rooms 1, 2, & 3
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Quartermaster Training	TBA
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Post Service Officer Training	TBA
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Social Hour – No Host Cash Bar	Hallway Rooms 1, 2, & 3
7:00 p.m.	Banquet – Master of Ceremonies Timothy Von Bon, Sr. Vice Commander	Meeting Rooms 1, 2, & 3
	Guest Speakers: VFW Auxiliary National Representative – Sandra Uzell National Chaplain 2025-2026 VFW National Representative – Harold J. "Hal" Roesch, Past Commander-In-Chief, 2020-2021	
5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open	TBA
Sunday, June 14, 2023	Convention Day 2	Room
9:00 a.m.	Memorial Service	Meeting Rooms 2 & 3
10:00 a.m.	VFW Business Meeting Election of Officers/Installation	Meeting Rooms 2 & 3
10:00 a.m.	VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting Election of Officers/Installation	Meeting Room 1
12:00 p.m.	VFW Council of Administration Meeting Mandatory Attendance for all 2026-2027 District/Post Commanders And Past 4 Department Commanders	Meeting Rooms 2 & 3
12:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting Mandatory Attendance for all 2026-2027 Auxiliary Presidents And Past 4 Department Auxiliary Presidents	Meeting Room 1

****This schedule is subject to change by the Commander and/or Auxiliary President****

Depart for Home - Have a Safe Trip!