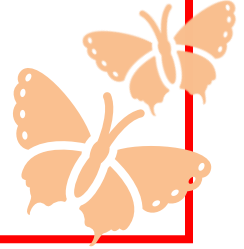




VFW Auxiliary to Wells McComas Post #2678

Newsletter

June, 2025



2678 Officers for 2025 – 2026 Elected

President – Linda Henderson
Senior Vice-President – Sandy Kirkpatrick
Junior Vice-President – Bruce Runk
Secretary – Linda Cotter
Treasurer - Cathy Gencel
Chaplain – Tom Tompsett
Conductor – Helen Crossett
Guard – Dorothy Swigon
1 Yr. Trustee – Nancy August
2 Yr. Trustee – Stephanie Serio
3 Yr. Trustee – Helen Crossett
Patriotic Instructor – Pat Swigon
Historian – Cathy Gistedt
Soloist - Sandy Kirkpatrick



President Bill Siperek's Special Project

Each year the state president chooses a cause to promote to raise funds. President Bill's project is updating the Kitchen in the Maryland House at the VFW National Home. Special Project Chairman Mary Cardinal-Vogt will work this year to encourage donations that will assist in the care and maintenance of the National Home cottage sponsored by the VFW and Auxiliary of Maryland.

The Maryland House was built in 1938. Your support for Auxiliary 2678 fundraisers for Bill's project to help fund kitchen construction will be truly appreciated by veterans and their families living in the Maryland House.



Here's to our members who also accepted positions in our state VFW Auxiliary for 2025 – 2026. It's volunteers who keep support programs and benefits coming to our veterans by their dedication.

Department President – Bill Siperek
Chief of Staff – Cathy Gistedt
Liaison to the VFW – Nancy August
Assistant Soloist – Sandy Kirkpatrick
Flag Bearer – Dean Henderson
POW-MIA Flag Bearer – Paul Olivares



Attention Annual Members – It's time to pay your VFW Auxiliary dues for the 2026 year. Our veterans need your support!

Meet Our State President: Bill Siperek from 2678!



William "Bill" Siperek was installed at the Department Convention on May 30th as President of the VFW Auxiliary of Maryland. Bill, a Past President of 2678 has proudly served the VFWA since 2015 under the eligibility of his father Bob Siperek, a Navy veteran of the Korean War. Bill was also a member of the former VFW Men's Auxiliary for 12 years before our auxiliary opened membership to eligible males. Serving as a state officer in various positions since 2016, President Siperek brings his experience to serve our veterans and their families across our state.

Are You Volunteering to Help Others?

Auxiliary Outreach is one of our National Auxiliary Programs. *Reaching Out* to help other organizations improve our communities, the Outreach Program is our way to show that Auxiliary work is not just focused on veterans and the military.

Are you already volunteering in your community? Being a Little League coach, serving at a local soup kitchen, and answering the phone for the SPCA are just a few of the projects we can report to show how Auxiliary members are volunteering to help others. If you are currently a volunteer, e-mail our Outreach Chairman Carol Wilke the organization you help, when, and how many hours you work to:

wilk64@verizon.net

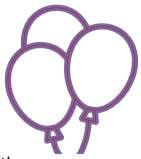
The Auxiliary can vote to make your service an Outreach project for our auxiliary.



Veterans & Family Members: If you are a veteran in crisis or concerned about one:

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1 or TEXT 838255

You are not alone. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to call 24/7 for support. Your call is free and confidential. No matter what you're experiencing, there are resources to help get your life back on track. Support our veterans by sharing this information.



Happy June Birthday!

2nd – Stephanie Stevens

5th - Debra Russell

Richard Ryan

6th – Teresa Fraley

18th – Bill Celano

8th – Nancee James

Bobbie Cramer

Herbert Keller

21st - Adam Cramer

10th – Butch Jones

Carmelita Willett

11th – Diana Frate

Debra Gephardt

12th – Kellie Strittman

22nd - William Ayd

14th - Frank Meyer III

25th - Bruce Runk

16th – Toni Quaty

Scott Taylor

Laureen Shipley

26th - Edward Kopicki

17th - Theresa Brzozowski

Pat Swigon

28th - Robert Wilhelm

An Auxiliary Flag Swap will be held at the Post Canteen on June 14th from 12 – 3pm. Bring your torn and tattered flag to receive a new 3X5 to fly proudly. All flags will be respectfully retired. Fly your flag every day!



2678 Awarded at State Convention

The Officers and members of Wells-McComas Auxiliary are dedicated to helping our veterans and their families. At the Ocean City Convention, our Auxiliary was recognized for overall projects and programs by earning a place in the Circle of Excellence for Maryland. The following Program Chairmen earned us outstanding efforts in Group 6 for National Programs.

1st Place – Legislative – Linda Henderson

Media Relations – Bonnie Carter

2nd Place – Americanism – Linda Henderson

Buddy Poppy/Natl Home – Helen Crossett

Veterans & Family Support – Cathy Gistedt

Youth Activities – Sandy Kirkpatrick

3rd Place - President's Special Project – Dorothy Swigon

Scholarships – Cathy Gistedt

In addition, Auxiliary 2678 was recognized for our Suicide Awareness Project (Cathy Gistedt) and our joint Poppy Display with the Post that won in Category 4 (Nancy Harris-VFW). Great year Wells-McComas!

What's Happening in June?



10th – Auxiliary Meeting at 7pm followed by a Celebration of Auxiliary 2678's first state president in 66 years.

21st – State School of Instruction at our Post. All are invited to learn about upcoming programs and events. Sign up for seating is required with Dept. Chairman Cathy Gistedt (410-477-1078).

28th – Bar Stool Bingo in the Post Canteen starts at 8pm.

Congratulations to Our AUX 2025 Scholarship Winner



This year's Wells-McComas VFW Auxiliary Scholarship recipient at Sparrows Point High School was Paisley Kirkpatrick. Applicants must be related to a member of our Auxiliary or VFW 2678 or have entered one of the VFW-AUX contests offered each year for both middle and high school students.

Paisley's application states she is planning to major in biology, hoping to become a pediatric doctor in NICU. She is in the top 5% of her class and has already earned 27 college credits while remaining active at SPHS in academic areas and sports. Paisley is also a former Voice of Democracy contest winner for Post 2678 and the granddaughter of Past Commander Greg Kirkpatrick and current Auxiliary Senior Vice-President Sandy Kirkpatrick.

Each year, Auxiliary 2678 offers scholarships to a graduating senior at Sparrows Point High School, Dundalk High School, and Patapsco High School & Center for the Arts. If someone in your family will be graduating in 2026, remember the financial help we offer to our members in appreciation of your support.

Congratulations District 14 Aux Officers

The leadership of District 14 (comprised of Wells-McComas, Essex-Hollyneck, Charles Evering, and Gunpowder Auxiliaries) was installed at their April meeting to assume offices on May 30th with our new state officers. Best wished for a great year!

President – Cathy Gistedt (2678)

Senior Vice-President – Amanda Icenroad (6506)

Junior Vice-President – Donna Auld (10067)

Secretary – Donna Auld (10067)

Treasurer – Bill Siperek (2678)

Chaplain – Sandi Fike (6506)

Conductor – Dorothy Swigon (2678)

Guard – Lynda Seitz (2621)

1 – Yr. Trustee – Nancy August (2678)

2 – Yr. Trustee – Paul Olivares (2678)

3 – Yr. Trustee – Bryan Jones (2621)

Patriotic Instructor – Kathleen Lindeman (6506)

Historian – Cathy Gistedt (2678)

Soloist – Dianna Shine (6506)

District 14 Mentor – Nancy August (2678)



A free online publication, *Action Corps Weekly* will keep you up-to-date on the issues facing our veterans, our military, and veterans' communities. Join to give the VFW strength in advocating for our nation's heroes.

Sign up online at votervoicenet/VFW/register to support our veterans and be informed.