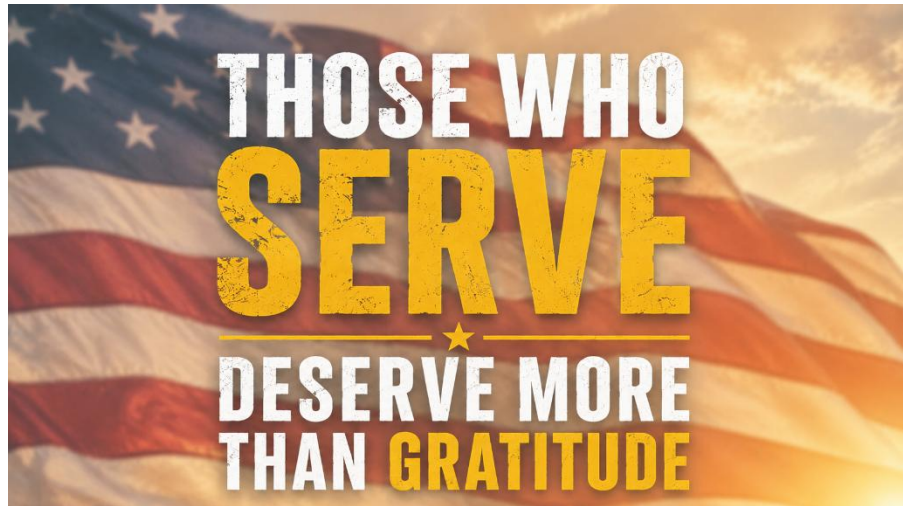




VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND
VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM
FRANCINE CORNISH
DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN 2026-2027

Our veterans and military families have given their time, their safety, and in many ways, irreplaceable pieces of themselves. As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we are dedicated to working with the VFW to stand beside them while on active duty and long after the uniform comes off. This program strives to promote and provide the resources and services available to our veterans through our organization and the community.



WHAT REAL SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE

MENTAL HEALTH & HEALING



Service members carry invisible wounds alongside the visible ones. We champion accessible, stigma free mental health resources – counseling peer support networks, and crisis services – for veterans and every member of their household.

Beth West, National Ambassador for Veterans & Family Support, has made Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and mental health awareness the focus this year. This focus will educate and raise awareness of the valuable

resources available through the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary, such as the VFW Mental Health Campaign Brochure and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988).

FAMILY RESILIENCE, COMMUNITY & BELONGING

Deployment, relocation, and the stress on service ripple through an entire family. Spouse, children, and caregivers deserve targeted support, financial guidance, community connections that honor their sacrifice, VFW & its Auxiliary offers a community of support for veterans and their families.

One of the grants that the organization offers to the Post & Auxiliary is the Military Appreciation Program (MAP) Grant which provides funds for Family Days, BBQ's, Welcome Home Ceremonies, Holidays and Festivals. MAP also incorporates Adopt-A-Unit to assist in building relationships between the VFW and our military members. Financial Assistance is also available through the Unmet Needs program.



The VFW established the National Veterans Service (NVS) to help all veterans, service members, their families, and survivors when transitioning out of the military or filing a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Disaster Relief Fund accepts donations from members and the community to help veterans, service members and military families impacted by natural disasters.



The VFW & its Auxiliary has a wealth of information and resources available. The organizations' websites, VFW.org and VFWAux.org are wonderful places to start. The VFW & its Auxiliary websites serve as vital digital hubs that connect members with essential resources, program information, benefits information, community support, and advocacy tools.

To meet the goal of aiding our veterans and their families, your promotions to educate our auxiliary members and the community about the VFW programs and to encourage participation in our activities are important. We will also emphasize planning and participating in activities with our Posts.

It will also be especially important to report on your activities, not only for possible end-of-the-year awards, but your report will be included in our annual report to the VFW. We want to be sure to let them know all that we do to support our veterans.

The main activities that you will need to report are included in the Veterans & Family Report form. Please include as much detail about your activity or event as possible. The Department program awards will be presented at the Department Convention.

As an additional incentive, an award will be presented to the Auxiliary Program Chairman who plans the best activity or event to feature our focus for the year: Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.



I look forward to team up with you for this important program. Together, we will make this a successful year for the Veterans & Family Support.

Francine Cornish

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Veterans & Family Support - Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of Maryland

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

FOCUS ON:

Mental Wellness

A staggering 20 veterans die by suicide every day. The VFW is committed to helping change the narrative and stigma surrounding mental health in America.

In order to raise awareness, foster community engagement, improve research, and provide intervention for those affected by invisible injuries and emotional stress, the VFW has teamed up with nationwide organizations to combat this critical issue.

VFW MENTAL AWARENESS PARTNERS: vfw.org

Give an Hour giveanhour.org

Campaign to Change Direction
changedirection.org

One Mind onemind.org

PatientsLikeMe patientslikeme.com

Elizabeth Dole Foundation hiddenheroes.org

2026-2027 JOINT SPECIAL PROJECT

OPERATION BRING THEM HOME

RETURNING **ALL** OF OUR HEROES TO
THEIR FAMILIES AND BRINGING
THEM HOME WITH HONOR

VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

DONNA K. MILLS

& VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

CORY L. GEISLER



The **DPAA** (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) is a Department of Defense agency that works to account for and repatriate U.S. service members who are or were Prisoners of War (**POW**) or Missing in Action (**MIA**) from past conflicts. Its mission is to provide families and the nation with the most complete record of these missing personnel. The DPAA uses a combination of historical research, recovery operations and forensic science including analyzing DNA to identify remains and **bring them home**.

To support this project, select the “**Make a Gift**” tab and then “**National President’s 2026-2027 Special Project**” in MALTA. Or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked “National President’s/Commander-in-Chief’s 2026-2027 Special Project.” Members may also mail gifts earmarked for the special project to the VFW Foundation.

Members can report this under the **Veterans & Family Support Program**. Also reportable under Veterans & Family Support and integral to DPAA’s efforts is what is called a Family Resource Sample (**FRS**). DNA from surviving family members is key to identifying missing loved ones. It is technology that did not exist when these troops were lost.

Helping this organization means helping families find peace. Your contributions will help fund the DPAA’s efforts. To learn more about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil.

