



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary – Department of Maryland



Hospital Program

Rhonda Thomas
Department Chairman 2026-2027
443-509-7844
vfwhospitalprogram@gmail.com



Hospital Program

Dear Auxiliary Members,

Let us begin by recognizing and celebrating you!

You are the driving force behind our continued hospital success. Through every compassionate interaction, every moment of dedication, and every act of service helps create a volunteering environment that is truly welcoming and supportive.

As we look ahead to the months before us, I would like to outline our shared goals and the vision that will guide our efforts. This year, we are pursuing impactful objectives, and we are committed to approaching them in ways that are both engaging and collaborative, fostering a sense of purpose, connection, and momentum across our entire auxiliaries.

Our mission remains unwavering: to honor America's veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we are privileged to serve.

This year, our volunteer efforts will be focused on the following:

- Honors Escort
- National Salute to Veterans Patients – Valentines for Veterans
- Veterans' Health Care (VHA)
- Women Veterans Health Care Program

Honors Escort

- This meaningful tradition reflects our deepest respect and gratitude, ensuring that every veteran is treated with dignity, compassion, and honor at every stage of their journey. There are many ways each of us can support this effort. Auxiliary members can volunteer to participate in an escort, assist with coordination and communication, help maintain a quiet and respectful environment during these moments. Even small gestures—such as pausing to stand in respect—carry great significance.

National Salute to Veteran Patients' Valentines for Veterans

- Auxiliaries can take time to personally thank veterans for their service, participate in organized recognition events, assist in distributing tokens of appreciation, and help create a warm, celebratory environment throughout our hospital. Valentines for Veterans offers heartfelt ways to show appreciation by creating Valentine's cards, encouraging community participation, helping distribute messages of gratitude, and sharing moments of kindness with patients. Simple, sincere interactions can leave a lasting impact.

Veterans' Health Care

- Supporting Veterans' Health Care is a shared responsibility that can be expressed through everyday actions and intentional efforts. Auxiliaries can contribute by delivering compassionate, patient-centered care in every interaction, ensuring that each veteran feels respected, heard and valued. Ways to support include participating in facility initiatives, assisting with patient engagement activities, taking time to listen, offering reassurance.

Women Veterans' Health Care

- There are several effective ways to support volunteer initiatives. Auxiliaries can organize events such as charity walks, wellness fairs, or themed awareness days that both engage participants and raise funds. Hosting raffles, silent auctions, or donation drives can also generate support while fostering a sense of community involvement.

Each auxiliary will be asked to report on the ways in which these volunteer goals were promoted, participated in, and/or hosted either as individuals or a VFW post.

In addition, of course, volunteer hours and recruitment will be recognized for the auxiliaries, sponsors and students; as well as hospital treats and fund donations. Throughout the reporting year, there will also be volunteer opportunities to support both traditional and non-traditional holidays.

Achieving established goals is a key driver for recognition and awards within the hospital program. Awards serve as motivation for continued engagement.

Each of us plays a vital role in bringing these goals to life. Your dedication, compassion, and innovation are the foundation of our auxiliary strength and impact.

Together, we uphold a culture of honor and compassion, ensuring that no veteran's journey goes unrecognized.

With gratitude and excitement,

Rhonda Thomas, Hospital Chairman