President's Message

November 2026

Greetings Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary,

The National VFW Auxiliary shared some exciting news with all the Departments recently, the VFW Auxiliary's benefits provider, AMBA, has agreed to **DOUBLE** our Membership Awards for the Departments. Departments are eligible to receive all four levels for a combined total of $1,950.00 for this Program Year. This means Departments are now eligible to receive **DOUBLE** this amount, up to $3,900.00 The first Department Award #1: $400.00 to each Department that reaches 95% plus in paid membership by November 30, 2026. Thanks to AMBA, the Departments are eligible to receive $800!

Keep pushing Membership as it is the core of our organization. You, the members of this organization are the ones that are making a difference by "Unity for Veterans, Embracing the Future" while "Serving America's Heroes." I want to see our Department seeds of membership grow and achieve this goal! Auxiliaries, don't forget to check our Department Treasurers' mailer for the Auxiliaries' chance to win cash.

I can hardly believe we're already halfway through the year — and what an incredible year it has been. During my District visits, I'm inspired by the amazing things your Auxiliaries are doing. Your dedication, creativity, and commitment to our veterans shine through in every conversation. Because so much great work is happening, I want to be sure every Auxiliary receives the recognition it truly deserves. Please take a moment to ensure your Auxiliary is submitting reports in each National Program. You *are* doing the work, and your efforts make a real difference.

Let's make sure your accomplishments are counted, celebrated, and proudly recognized at Convention. By reporting the outstanding work you're doing, we highlight our commitment to Unity for Veterans and demonstrate how we are Embracing the Future together. Your dedication makes the Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary stronger. Sharing your efforts helps every Auxiliary shine!

If you plan to attend the Christmas Conference on December 12, 2026, at E.E.Streets Memorial VFW Post 5118, please remember **RSVPs are due to Debbie Sturgis by November 21, 2026**. Also, don't forget to bring your donated basket(s) for the Basket Raffle being held at the Christmas Conference. Your contributions help support Cynthia Davis, VFW Auxiliary National Conductor, and are truly appreciated.

The VFW and Auxiliary Joint Project with State VFW Commander is "The Baltimore Station." Auxiliaries can provide hope and support for our veterans by purchasing In-kind items listed on the flyer. I can collect these donations during District visits. If you would like to join the State VFW Commander and me for the presentation at Baltimore Station, I will share the delivery date and time once confirmed.

Continue to promote Operation Second Chance (OSC) – their visions is to seek, create awareness, and assist our nation's heroes indefinitely so **not one** combat wounded injured, and ill Veteran in need of assistance and healing is left behind that is eligible within the sustainable scope of services offered by OSC. To see what they do at OSC you can follow them on social media or their website www.osc.org/heroesridge

Friendly reminder, all monetary donations go to the Department Treasurer and payable to the Department of MD VFW Auxiliary, earmark "Presidents Special Project". We are now offering long-sleeve and hoodies for purchase. Check the PSP Chairman mailer for the current OSC Merchandise Order Form. I appreciate all the Auxiliaries and members for your monetary donations and purchases of OSC merchandise.

I would like to wish each of you a safe and healthy Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you for the wonderful work you continue to do for Veterans and their families. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone or email.

Nancy Shenk
Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary
President 2026-2027
Unity for Veterans – Embracing the Future

