

Happy February everyone,

The Historian & Media Relations National Program Awards 2024-2025 Entry Form is due to me by March 31st, 2025, for judging. Please make sure to send your completed entry forms to me for judging. I will then forward our state winner on to my National & Media Relations Ambassador Tela Harbold for her to judge. The entry form is listed on my Historian and Media Relations page.

Congratulations to all the VFW Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Middle School and High School Teachers of the Year Winners that made it to Pierre to receive their awards. Congratulations to all the local winners and state winners. Good luck to all winners that are moving on.

President Colleen Miller Foland, husband Mike and Past President Pam Vissia are enjoying the National Midyear Convention in Cancun. We cannot wait to hear about your adventure!

Facts to share when talking about our VFW Auxiliary:

- Established in 1914, the VFW Auxiliary is the nation's oldest veterans'service organization auxiliary.
- Members of the VFW Auxiliary are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat.
- There are more than 470,000 members representing all 50 states, the Philippines, Panama and Guam.
- We serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.
- It is our mission to assist the VFW in any way we can. We share a common goal of serving veterans, their families and our communities.
- Last year Auxiliaries provided a total of two million dollars in monetary aid to veterans, service members and their families.
- We are a voice for veterans on Capitol Hill; we are instrumental in assisting the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families.
- We are one of the top ten providers of volunteer hours in the VA medical system.
- Every year, members fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans and their families.
- We provide millions of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth.
- We spread patriotism and educate our communities and our nation's youth about America's patriotic holidays and the American Flag.
- We spread the word about Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and promote military and veteran suicide awareness.

There are more than 3,600 Auxiliaries nationwide working to improve the lives of our nation's veterans. Learn how you can get involved at www.vfwauxiliary.org and visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/VFWAuxiliary>.



We have 66 days left to be a part of President Colleen's 100 by 100 Diaper Challenge. We need 1000 diaper packages in Size 1,2, and 3 to be collected by our SD Auxiliaries and distributed to Veteran families in your immediate area. To get recognized for your contribution, you will need to report the number of diaper packages collected to Kim Vennard.

Have a great month everyone. Don't forget to start thinking about yearend awards.

<https://vfwauxsd.org/uploads/Documents/Historian%20and%20Media%20Relations/Historian&MediaRelationsAuxiliaryAwardNo.1TelaHarbold.pdf>

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