



Message #1

Dear Auxiliary Members,

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me as your Department of Washington Auxiliary President. It is both an honor and a privilege to represent the State of Washington during the 2026–2027 Auxiliary year. I look forward to serving alongside each of you as we continue our mission of supporting our veterans, their families, and our communities.

This year's Special Project theme is "**Hold On, Be Strong – Suicide Awareness.**" Veteran suicide remains a heartbreaking concern in our nation. Approximately 6,400 veterans die by suicide each year in the United States—an average of 17 to 18 lives lost every day. Together, we can help bring hope, awareness, and support to those who need it most.

I am proud to announce our partnership with the **Permission to Start Dreaming (PTSD) Foundation** in Gig Harbor, Washington. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to helping veterans heal from post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries. Through monthly huddles, educational classes, workshops, and Warrior PATHH training, the Foundation empowers veterans to overcome challenges and build fulfilling lives. I encourage you to learn more about their important work at www.ptsdfoundation.org.

Our National President, Donna Mills, has chosen the theme "**Serving America's Heroes.**" Her Special Project, **Operation Bring Them Home**, is a partnership with National Commander-in-Chief Cory L. Geisler and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Together with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, they are committed to locating and bringing home America's missing service members from around the world. I encourage each of you to support this meaningful effort as we continue honoring those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

As Auxiliary members, we are stronger when we work together. By supporting our programs and one another, we can continue making a positive difference in the lives of veterans, their families, and our communities.

I look forward to a productive, rewarding, and memorable year serving with all of you. Thank you for your dedication, compassion, and continued commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

With appreciation,

Tracie Tomsen

Department of Washington Auxiliary President
2026–2027