

To: Annie O'Connor
National Veterans and Family Support Program Ambassador
From: Marsha Short
Veterans and Family Support Chairman, Dept. of NM 2025-2026

Allow me to introduce myself, Madame Ambassador: I am Marsha Short, and I am from Las Cruces, NM. It is the second-largest city in New Mexico, located only about 40 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border. I am proud to be serving as the VFWA Department of New Mexico Veterans and Family Chairman for 2025-2026, by request of our Department President, Jeanette Garcia. I appreciate her trust and support in giving me this honor and responsibility.

As I expressed when I sent out my first promotional this year, I grew up learning about the service and sacrifices of several of my family members in WWII and Korea before I was born. Then, when I was young, my eldest brother enlisted in the Army and was deployed to Vietnam. I remember watching my mother anxiously stare at the news reports night after night while he was fighting overseas. She had experienced the loss of her little brother in the Korean conflict before I was born, and I knew she lived in fear that soldiers would come to her door with the same horrible news that caused her own mother to collapse in agonizing grief in front of her years earlier. Ultimately, my brother returned safely home, to our family's great relief and joy, but I always felt deeply saddened that my siblings and I would never get to know Uncle Billy.

These experiences, along with being brought into VFW 10124 Auxiliary as a young adult through Dad's WWII service, had a strong impact on me that stayed in my heart and inspired me to do as much as I could to help veterans and their families as soon as I was able.

To date I have served in every Auxiliary office at least once at Post level, and most offices at District. I just completed my 2nd year as Post 10124 President, and now I am Post Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer again. I am also NM District 3 President for the 2nd year, and Department of NM Conductor. I am humbled and proud to have had such amazing ongoing support from my Post, District, and Department Auxiliary members and fellow officers. I have been appointed to several Chairmanships as well, and those have taught me SO MUCH along the way. Now, at the beginning year 2025-26, I am so excited to serve in my first Veterans and Family Support chairmanship for New Mexico!

Beyond Auxiliary efforts, in my "other life" I was a musician (ranging from playing in symphony orchestras to country and rock bands), a nurse (Labor & Delivery and Pediatrics), and a teacher/coach (elementary and middle school). I have enjoyed playing, watching and coaching many sports. Soccer, volleyball, and tennis are my favorites. And I really loved performing in many community theater productions through the years.

Well, that's enough about me! I really look forward to meeting you at National in August, Madame Ambassador, and I can't wait to start working together with our NM Auxiliary members and hopefully inspiring them to be a part of the rising tide that lifts our veterans (and families) to success!

Yours in Service,
Marsha Short
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