

Greetings, New Mexico Auxiliary Officers, Members, and Volunteers:

I am Marsha Short, writing to you from Las Cruces, NM. I am so proud to announce that I will be serving as the VFWA Department of New Mexico Veterans and Family Support Chairman for 2025-2026. I want to thank our new Department President, Jeanette Garcia, for this opportunity. It is so exciting that I will be learning and growing in a new chairmanship and passing on to you the goals and focal points of this program as provided by our National Ambassador, Annie O'Connor. I am thankful as well to have her continued guidance as we strive to do more for our veterans and families. I have always been exceedingly proud of the service and sacrifices of several of my family members in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. I have been a member of VFW Post 10124 Auxiliary most of my adult life, so when I retired from teaching in 2016, I was glad to have more time to volunteer to help our great organization. Now, with this new challenge, I look forward to furthering the efforts of all our members when it comes to taking care of those who have served so valiantly and their loved ones who provided unwavering support throughout their service and deployment. The importance of providing help for our veterans returning home so that they can get back on their feet, plan for the future, and meet the needs of their families can never be underestimated!

Here's a quick overview of the key points we will focus on as we strive to meet the needs of our veterans and their families this coming Auxiliary year:

- VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs
- Veterans' Mental Health Awareness
- Veteran and Veteran Spouses Employment

In the coming months, I will be elaborating on these points and sharing lots of information and ideas that I hope will help our New Mexico Auxiliaries serve our veterans and families consistently, effectively, and with the spirit of our program's motto this year: "A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!"

After all, our veterans deserve our very best efforts to help them soar! So let's join together and create a driving force that will lift up our veterans and families in every possible way in the coming Auxiliary year!

Yours in Service, Marsha Short 5254 Apache Trail Las Cruces, NM 88012 <u>weezerino@gmail.com</u>