

Thank you from President Tommy Hughes

Hello Brothers and Sisters of the VFW Department of Arkansas Auxiliary!

During this past year I was lucky enough to be present at the Institution of two new Auxiliaries. Siloam Springs and Malvern. The folks in those areas worked long and hard to accomplish this. I Salute them for the perseverance and dedication it took to accomplish the establishment of these Auxiliaries.

To all those Auxiliaries and Districts that I was able to visit this past year, I thank you so much for your hospitality. I want to thank all of you who were able to attend our training events, whether at Leadership, Homecoming or Mid-winter. Speaking of Homecoming, I am so Honored by the large attendance at my Homecoming. Thank you all for coming and helping me celebrate my Year as President! I also want to give a special mention and thank you to VFW Post 7514 Quitman for hosting our Leadership this year. Thank you Commander Glen and President Jennifer. Also thank you to all who invited me to events at their Post. I wish I could have attended all of them.

One of the very special times for me this year was being able to Host our very own National President Lois Callahan during her official visit. I want to thank all of you who were able to attend the events held during her visit. That made it very special for me and for Lois, I am sure. I also want to thank all of you who worked behind the scenes to make Madam President's visit a roaring success! Finally, I want to thank Michael Dobbs and Karlene Beams for the wonderful tour of Towbin/Ft Roots, and the tour of the Fisher House.

Thank you to all my Chairmen who worked so hard this past year, and to all the Line Officers who went above and beyond.

Forgive me if I have left anyone out, I am very proud of each and every one of you for stepping up and doing what you can for the VFW, Veterans, their families, and for our Auxiliary! It has been an Absolute Honor, and I am very proud to have been your Department President for the 2025-2026 Program year.

Thank you all for your help and support throughout the year.

With highest regards,
Tommy A. Hughes

Letters To President Tommy Hughes

From Sr Vice President Rhon Mohr:

Congratulations on a successful and impactful year. Your dedication, leadership, and commitment have not gone unnoticed, and the positive difference you've made is truly appreciated. Your efforts have strengthened those around you and contributed greatly to our organization. I have been grateful for the opportunity to be part of addressing and resolving several minor challenges throughout this time. This experience has allowed me to contribute in a meaningful way while supporting continued progress and improvement. I will not soon forget the privilege of being part of your team and contributing alongside such dedicated individuals.

Rhon Mohr
Department Sr Vice

From Jr Vice President Jennifer Powell

President Tommy,

What a wonderful and memorable year it has been for Team Arkansas. Together, we celebrated historic leadership—most notably the installation of our first male president—and we also had the distinct honor of welcoming National President Lois Callahan and her Chief of Staff, Karlene Beams, both proud Arkansans. Throughout the year, our Auxiliaries have shown up with energy, teamwork, and commitment, and I am grateful for the steady leadership you provided as we worked to make your year a strong and successful one.

It has been a true honor to serve alongside you this year as Department Junior Vice President and as your Veterans and Family Support Chairman. I appreciate the trust you placed in me and the opportunity to support our members through department meetings, outreach efforts, and the day-to-day work that keeps our mission moving forward.

I have especially enjoyed serving as Veterans and Family Support Chairman. It has been rewarding to connect with Auxiliaries across Arkansas, hear the stories behind their projects, and witness the countless ways members step up—whether through visits, care packages, assistance programs, or simple acts of encouragement—to make sure our veterans and their families feel seen, supported, and appreciated. Seeing that compassion in action has been one of the highlights of my year.

As we close out the year and look ahead, let's carry that same spirit forward and remember to "Cast a Line for Veterans" from "Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free."

Loyally,
Jennifer Powell

From Treasurer Linda Evans

President Tom,

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving as Department Treasurer and as your Membership Chairman this year. Thank you for the trust you placed in me, and thank you to the entire Team Arkansas leadership and membership for the support, teamwork, and encouragement throughout the year. Together we've had a strong year—staying focused on our mission, supporting our auxiliaries, and continuing to show up for veterans, their families, and our communities. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you.

Cast a Line for Veterans

Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free

Linda

From Secretary Vicki McGahhey

Mr. President Tom:

This has been a year of “firsts”. You are our very “first” male President and I am a “first” time Secretary. I thank you whole heartily for this appointment and your confidence in me. It truly has been my honor and pleasure to serve you and the Department of Arkansas VFW Auxiliary in this capacity. As usual, there are always ups and downs, but Arkansas comes through. We saw two (2) new Auxiliaries instituted this year. Hopefully, we can continue to grow our organization. What a year, to also have our own Lois Callahan as our National President. I am so proud of her and her accomplishments. She is very special.

From “Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free” I will continue to serve and learn so I can always “Cast a Line for Veterans”. CONGRATULATIONS Tom on a successful year.

Vicki McGahhey

Dept. Secretary

From Chaplain Charles Bailey

Dear Brother Tommy,

I would like to take a moment to thank you for allowing me to be your Americanism Chairman for your year of 2025/2026. It was a great honor to serve you and the great State of Arkansas and the VFW Auxiliary. I was inspired by all that was done by each Auxiliary and its members. I very much enjoyed being able to train, inspire and collaborate ideas with everyone. It was great to also work with our National American Ambassador 2025/2026 *Diana Russell-Milton*, to achieve her goals for her year. I am so blessed to have received reports and pictures of what so many people are doing from Auxiliary to Auxiliary. We have always heard that nobody does more for Veterans than the VFW and Auxiliary. I can say that I have never felt more proud to be an American and to partner with people who love their Country and our Veterans more than those who I have worked with this year!

Thank you once again for this amazing opportunity.

Best regards

Brother Charles Bailey
Department of Arkansas Chaplain 2025-2026
Americanism Chairman 2025-2026

From Conductor Jacob Arnett

Dear Auxiliary Members of the Department of Arkansas,

It has been a profound honor to serve as your Department Conductor this year. As my term progresses, I find myself reflecting on the incredible dedication each of you brings to our mission.

The hard work you do across the state—from supporting our local VA hospitals to organizing Buddy® Poppy drives—is the glue that holds our organization together. Your commitment ensures that our veterans, active-duty service members, and their families are never forgotten. Thank you for your loyalty, your long hours of service, and for the heart you put into everything you do for Arkansas veterans. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together.

Congratulations Department President Tommy Hughes on a successful year. You worked hard to support our cause and to make this year memorial and it didn't go unnoticed.

Loyally,
Jacob Arnett
VFW Auxiliary Department of Arkansas Conductor

From Guard Selina Wilson

Dear Tommy,

Congratulations on a successful year! It has passed quickly and it is hard to believe we are at the end. It was a pleasure to work with you. I have learned a great deal and enjoyed visiting our other Auxiliaries. I look forward to continuing my journey and serving the Department of AR. I wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Selina Wilson
Dept Guard

From Chief of Staff Kim Davis

President Tommy,

What a great time to be a part of Team Arkansas!

History has been made this year and I am so honored to have served on your team.

Thank you for appointing me as your Chief of Staff. I have enjoyed working with all the District Presidents, Auxiliary Presidents, Department Officers and Auxiliaries.

We have had wonderful leadership from our very own National Chief of Staff Karlene Beams to help guide us to keep our Auxiliaries healthy and strong.

We have had Madame VFW Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan to lead us. She is a true light to us all!

May we always strive to Cast a Line for Our Veterans from Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free.

Loyally,
Kim Davis

From Buddy Poppy Chairman Katrina Rogers

Hi everyone!

This has been such an amazing year. Thank you President Tommy for giving me the opportunity to serve as your “Buddy”® Poppy and National Home Chairman this year. I have learned so much about the “Buddy”® Poppy and the National Home and have enjoyed sharing the information with whomever would listen.

I am so proud to be a member of the Department of Arkansas. You all have worked so hard this year, and I am thankful for your participation in this program. I have enjoyed reading through your program reports and learning new ways of getting information about the “Buddy”® Poppy and National Home out to our communities and veterans, service members, and their families. Thank you for all you have done and everything you will do.

Loyally,
Katrina Rogers

From Historian Chairman Jana Patrick

Team Arkansas, I could not have pick a better year to have been selected as Historian/Media Relations Chairmen. Department President Tommy Hughes being our first male President will definitely be one for the history books. If that wasn't enough, how about we add in our own Arkansas native, National President Lois Callahan. So extremely proud of both of them.

I wonder what I would have done without the support and love from each and every one of you as I roamed around as "Wonder Women" trying to teach the skills of how to make a REEL. My heart was so happy every time I seen one being posted. I don't know about you, but this was all new to me. So, I thank you so much for giving it a try. We also added the # for sharing and communicating. You all rock it. Way to go!

President Tommy, everyone has a story to tell, whether it is written, a picture, a scrapbook or maybe even a movie. The bottom line is: If it wasn't documented, it didn't happen. I am humble to have be chosen by you this year. To you and the great State of Arkansas, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Loyally
Jana Patrick
"Wonder Women"

From Hospital Chairman Cheri Wood

Tommy, it's been an amazing year for the hospital. The outpouring of love for our Veterans is overwhelming. Thank you for this opportunity to be the Chairman of the Hospital.

Cheri Wood
Hospital Chairman

From Legislative Chairman Lela Kilby

I really did enjoy being the legislative chairman for the Department of Arkansas. And I want to thank everyone who help me through this year. I would love to thank Tommy Hughes for giving me the privilege of doing this this year. But most of all I would like to thank all the auxiliary members for participating in your program, and helping us to better serve Veterans.

Lela Kilby
Legislative Chairman

From Outreach Chairman Cathy Malone

Department of Arkansas and President Tommy Hughes,

This past year, it has truly been my honor to serve as Auxiliary Outreach Chair. Sharing information about how this program works has been both a privilege and a challenge. While not everyone fully understood the program at first, I worked hard to emphasize how it can lead to growth in other areas of our organization and show our communities that we genuinely care about making them better.

I was very pleased with the many reports I received outlining the wonderful work done throughout the year to support local communities. Thank you very much for choosing me to chair this important program.

Cathy Malone
District 9 President

From Youth Chairman Jeanie Rodney

Hello VFW Auxiliary President Tommy Hughes,

I just wanted to reach out and extend my sincere thanks for allowing me to participate in the Youth Activities Program. It has been an absolute joy traveling to various auxiliaries throughout the state and seeing the amazing projects in action. A huge shoutout to all the members for their hard work and innovative ideas that have made the youth program thrive. I am hopeful for the opportunity to lead this program once more in the future.

Sending warm regards,
Jeanie Rodney,
Youth Activities Chairman