October 2026 | Veteran and Family Support
Chairman Tracy Bogard - (971) 678-2595 - lovfwaux12140@gmail.com

The Power of Giving Back

The strength of the VFW Auxiliary Department of Oregon's Veteran and Family Support program comes from the generosity, dedication, and compassion of its members and community partners. Donating time and financial resources is an investment in the well-being of veterans, military families, and the next generation of military-connected youth.

Every volunteer hour, financial contribution, and act of service help strengthen local communities, provide access to essential resources, and create meaningful opportunities for connection and support. Whether through volunteering at an event, supporting a local initiative, or making a financial contribution, every effort makes a difference in the lives of those who have served and sacrificed for our nation. By investing in our communities, VFW members help ensure that veterans, service members, and their families know they are not alone.

Department of Oregon VFW Veterans Service Office

The **Department of Oregon VFW Veterans Service Office** plays a vital role in helping veterans and their families navigate the benefits and services they have earned through military service. Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) assist eligible veterans, dependents, and survivors with understanding and pursuing benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Services may include assistance with VA disability compensation claims, pension benefits, survivor benefits, and other earned benefits, as well as guidance through the claims and appeals process. By helping veterans understand their options and access available resources, the Veterans Service Office supports their financial stability, well-being, and quality of life.

Auxiliaries, please send your donations for the Service Office to the Department of Oregon VFWA Treasurer ASAP. As of Sept 25th, 2026, 3 Auxiliaries have donated $400.00.

Walking Together: Out of the Darkness Walks in Portland and Salem

The VFWA Department of Oregon Veteran and Family Support Chairman encourages all members, veterans, and their families to participate in the Out of the Darkness Community Walks in Portland and Salem this October. Hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), these walks raise awareness about suicide prevention, support those affected by suicide, and promote mental health and connection within our communities.

- ***The Portland walk will take place on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at Daimler Truck North America (TEC), located at 4747 N. Channel Avenue, Portland, OR 97217. Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m., with the event starting at 11:00 a.m.***

- ***The Salem walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Riverfront Park in Salem, Oregon. Check-in begins at 10:00 a.m., with the event starting at 11:00 a.m.***

VFWA members are encouraged to register, participate, and invite friends and family to join them in supporting suicide prevention and mental health awareness. By walking together, we honor those we

have lost, stand alongside those who are struggling, and help build stronger, more connected communities for veterans and military families.

This is a free event, but donations are always welcome. You can sign up online or in person at the event.

Registration and event information:

- Portland Walk: https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/PortlandOR
- Salem Walk: https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/SalemOR

Oregon's Military Youth: Oregon National Guard Youth Military Ball | January 2027

In January 2027, the **Oregon National Guard Youth Military Ball** will provide an opportunity to celebrate the children and families of Oregon National Guard service members. Military-connected youth often experience unique challenges associated with parental deployments, extended training, and the demands of military service. Events like the Youth Military Ball create opportunities for connection, recognition, and a sense of belonging among young people who share these experiences.

Through local support and community partnerships, VFW Auxiliaries and Posts can help strengthen programs that recognize the sacrifices and resilience of military-connected youth. Supporting events that bring these young people together reinforces the importance of family, community, and continued commitment to those who serve. More information will be provided as the event gets closer.

Please send your donations for this event to the Department of Oregon VFWA Treasurer by December 20th, 2026. This will help with event meal planning.

Oregon Military Run2Remember | May 2027

The **Run2Remember**, scheduled for May 2027, will provide another opportunity to bring communities together in remembrance and support of those who have served and sacrificed. Events that honor veterans and military families help keep their stories alive while encouraging community participation and awareness.

VFW Post and Auxiliary members can support Run2Remember through participation, volunteer efforts, community outreach, and local fundraising. These efforts help foster meaningful connections between veterans, families, and the communities that stand alongside them. More information will be provided as the event gets closer.

Auxiliaries, please send your donations for this event to the Department of Oregon VFWA Treasurer by March 2027. As of Sept 25th, 2026, 1 Auxiliary has donated $200.00.

My Thanks to You

As the Department of Oregon VFW Auxiliary Veteran and Family Support Chairman, I offer my sincere gratitude to every member, volunteer, donor, and community partner who gives their time, resources, and compassion to support veterans and military families. Your generosity makes our programs and services possible and strengthens the connections that sustain our military community. Every contribution, whether large or small, helps us continue our mission of serving those who have served. Thank you for your continued commitment, your willingness to serve, and your dedication to making a lasting difference in the lives of Oregon's veterans, service members, and their families.

If you have any questions please contact me via email or text.