



[www.womenveteransunite.com](http://www.womenveteransunite.com)

February 2024

womenvunite@gmail.com

Mission: Becoming Visible

### Fellowship, Fun and Food February 15, 2024



Karen Bauer and Pamela Beauchamp-Hall celebrate February birthdays

### Community Outreach

What our members are doing out in the community.



Audrey Alexander, receives the VyStar Military salute



VyStar, a sponsor for Women Veterans Unite, and a Proud Military Partner at FSU sports events featured a VyStar Military Salute at the FSU v. Notre Dame game on Feb. 11, 2024. The VyStar military salute went to WVU President, Audrey Alexander. Kimberly Homer, PIO, Rita Wilson and Karen Bauer attended. Sadly, FSU lost.

**Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)**



The NSDAR (National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution) is a nonprofit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism. **FT San Luis Chapter, DAR** Regent Becky Berentsen presented Audrey Alexander, President of Women Veterans Unite with a check to support the Spring Retreat Program on April 13. This is the third year the

Ft. St. Luis Chapter of the DAR has sponsored the WVU program.



Audrey Alexander, President WVU and Becky Berentsen, Local Regent DAR



Karen Bauer, Armed Forces Liaison, Audrey Alexander, President WVU, Becky Berentsen, Local Regent Ft. San Luis DAR, Paula Hubert, Vice-President, WVU



Military Committee DAR and WVU members

Audrey Alexander, President WVU and Kimberly Homer, PIO (Public Information Officer) at the Coaches and Cancer FSU Game Jan. 27, 2024.



**Meet and Greet At Ease Campground Feb 1, 2024**



Patti Fabian, Charlene Johns, Megan Lengerich and Ritaann Schultz

The Meet and Greets At Ease Campground are held the first Thursdays of the month.

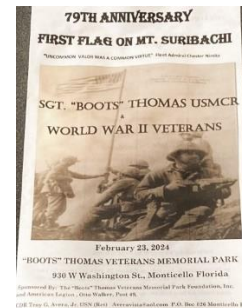
## Military and Veterans Week February 19-23 at the Capitol

The inaugural Military and Veterans week at the Capitol brought over 80 veterans' organizations from all over the state to showcase their groups. The week started with a reception on Monday, February 19th, 2024 on the 22nd floor of the Capitol. Kimberly Homer, PIO; Sharon Brooks, Representative on the FWWAC (Florida Women Veterans Advisory Council), Paula Hubert, Vice-President WVU, Karen Bauer, Armed Forces Liaison, and Felecia Brown WVU member and Founder and CEO of BJG Missions, Inc. were present at the reception. On Thursday Pat Stanford, Paula Hubert, Sharon Brooks, Debra Mann (not pictured) and Karen Bauer were present at the Women Veterans Unite table to provide information about the group and to continue the mission of educating the public that women are veterans too!



## Marines remember Iwo Jima

Public Information officer and WVU member, Kimberly Homer attended the ceremony in Monticello, FL on February 23, 2023, commemorating the flag raising at Mt. Surabachi during the battle of Iwo Jima. Platoon Sgt. Ernest Ivy "Boots" Thomas, Jr. was one of the Marines who participated in the flag raising. He was a resident of Monticello, FL.



Henry Lowery and Kimberly Homer both USMC

## WVU Sponsors and Supporters

[www.tallahassee-parrot-head-club.com](http://www.tallahassee-parrot-head-club.com)

The Tallahassee Parrot Head Club is an equal-opportunity, non-exclusive, non-political, non-commercial social organization. They consider all faiths and beliefs to be private matters beyond the scope of our charter. Therefore, they strictly limit their public activities to aiding charities and performing community service.

In the month of February, the Tallahassee Parrot Head Club raised over \$800.00 for Women Veterans Unite. The initiative was conducted by Cindy Bennett. Thank you, Parrot Heads, for your support.



Cindy Bennett and Beatrice Wolfe, Parrot Heads!

Please come to  
welcome WVU  
Sponsors and  
Supporters on

March 21, 2024

at the American Legion  
Hall

6:30 pm

Speaking of Sponsors and Supporters of WVU did you know that we have a formal sponsorship program with different tiers of support. The members of the Fundraising committee have been out in the community looking for sponsors. So far we have:

**Sherlock Springs  
VyStar Credit Union  
Ft. St. Luis Chapter  
of the DAR  
The Haven Spa  
Earl Bacon Agency**

More in process:  
stay tuned.

**We would appreciate  
membership support  
at the March 21, 2024  
monthly gathering.**  
We will be hosting the  
representatives of our

sponsors and supporters. They will have an opportunity to tell about their business and programs. As usual, dinner will be served. Please wear your polo shirts so we can take a formal group picture. If you don't have a polo shirt, they will be available for purchase (\$20).

## Haven Spa Giveaway

A grateful thank you to all of the WVU members who took tickets to sell for the Spa Giveaway. There are some tickets left. We would love to sell all of them this year for a record breaking fundraiser. If you don't have tickets but you have friends who may want to donate to the cause by getting some tickets please contact

**Karen Bauer 914-  
772-5915 cell/text**



For WVU newcomers, this is the 3rd year Haven Spa owner, Pam Moyer has donated the half spa day. We appreciate Pam's support!

## **Finding the RIGHT person!**

We recently received a call and email regarding the need for help to get benefits. The content of the email is below (with permission from the author)

*The men have been no help at all!!!! I've only been to the Paul Russell location and the young man with the beard never returned my calls and I even did a walk in and he said he was busy. Mattie was wonderful at the Legion but he was very busy the last time I went by and the 2 older guys at the VA hospital were absolutely no help at all, they talk over me around me and I leave out not knowing what to do at all so I prefer to speak with a nice lady that will at least listen to me. Thank you so very much for helping me because I'm just lost*

This type of treatment for women looking for benefits and help to get their disability is unacceptable and part of the reason WVU exists. There are members of WVU who can help. (The person of the above email was

referred to Sharon Brooks, representative for the Florida Women Veterans Advisory Council). There are other resources listed below. The lawyers at the Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative are very helpful, but as she wrote in her statement, they were busy. We are in the process of formalizing a system of referral that will prevent the frustration of women applying for benefits.

Vanessa Thomas, State Women Veterans Coordinator for FDVA (Florida Department of Veterans Affairs) will be attending the March 21, 2024 WVU meeting to talk about this issue.

Sharon Brooks is the regional representative for the Florida Women Veterans Advisory Council. (brochure sent separately with newsletter).

Felecia Brown, Founder and CEO of BJG Missions, Inc., a former homeless Army veteran who now has a mission to provide

transitional and permanent housing for homeless veterans and their families. She will assist veterans navigating the health and benefits system-free.

Debra Mann works for DAV. Her office is at the VA clinic.

**DAV Debra Mann**  
850-272-6170  
Disability Claims

**Veterans Legal Collaborative-FREE legal** information and help with disability or homeless issues meets every Thursday from 3 pm to 5 pm at the American Legion Hall Lake Ella Drive. Walk in encouraged. Thanks to Arlene Mullin (USAF) for volunteering at the Legal Collaborative.

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program  
**Brooklyn Enders**  
443-621-0579  
Job information and retraining



## FIND HELP FOR YOURSELF & OTHERS

If you or someone you know is struggling upon returning home and needs immediate, professional help—call the Suicide and Crisis Hotline and press 1 for veteran support or visit

the website to talk with a VA responder.

**Call 988 and press 1**  
**VeteranCrisisLine.net**

If you want to be a partner in the suicide solution the American Legion initiative, “**Be the One,**” needs help reaching out to at risk veterans. Contact

Rodney Keener  
251-635-7663  
[rbkeener22@gmail.com](mailto:rbkeener22@gmail.com)

## American Legion Update

Lots of changes going on at the American Legion. WVU member, Cindy Laskowski has been nominated to take the Commander’s position. The next meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:30 pm. If you are a member, please come out to support Cindy in her efforts.



**Host: Lynette Halter**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

March 7, 2024

1515 NORTH Paul Russell Rd. #61 Near Apalachee Parkway (behind Goodwill)

7 pm to 9 pm

Hostess provides wine and tea

Guests bring snacks  
850-405-0246  
for more information

## Upcoming Events- save the dates

**April 13, 2024 Spring  
Retreat at Sherlock  
Springs 9 am to 4 pm**

**You won’t want to  
miss it!!**



The Spring Retreat provides an opportunity for fellowship and learning new ways to grow and heal.

Coming back this year are the REIKI and massage therapists. Lunch will be served by Mission BBQ. Program information TBA.

**April 27, 2024  
Honor Flight**



Membership \$25.00

**HAVEN**  
SPA + WELLNESS STUDIO

**\$145 VALUE**

**GIVEAWAY**

We are happy to provide WVU with our new **“Celebrate You”** package as a donation. The winner will receive a collection of services sure to delight!

- ✓ 45 MINUTE RELAXING MASSAGE
- ✓ 45 MINUTE RELAXING FACIAL
- ✓ 15 MINUTE HAND & FOOT TREATMENT

Winner will be picked at the Spring Retreat on Saturday, April 13, 2024

Donations: \$5 single ticket  
\$10 for 3 tickets

We accept Cash, Check, or Cashapp \$WVUnite

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

**WOMEN VETERANS UNITE**

Please help get donations for tickets. This is a major WVU fundraiser. Contact Karen at 914-772-5915. You must know someone who would want to win a half day at the SPA! Winning ticket is picked at the April 13, 2024 Retreat.

Past winners: 2022: WVU member Lynn Jones (pictured with Dr. Sandra Dalton Smith) and 2023 Lily Medina

