



VFW Auxiliary Department of New York District 3

Maryellen DesForge, Secretary Kathleen Hayward, President Carrie Morrison Baker, Treasurer

January 2025

Dear Madam President and Members,

At the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York District 3 meeting on January 5, 2025, the members proudly voted to endorse Belinda Cole for the office of Senior Vice President in the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York for 2025-2026.

Belinda joined the VFW Auxiliary in September 2009 under the eligibility of her grandfather, Raymond Dube Sr, a World War II Veteran. Within her first year of membership, she knew this was her passion, so she became a Life Member.

Belinda has held many elected and appointed positions and chairmanships on Auxiliary, County Council, District and Department levels. She is currently the Department of New York Junior Vice President.

Some of Belinda's achievements include County Council President of the Year for her outstanding leadership in 2015-2016; Runner-Up District President of the Year in 2019-2020 and again in 2021-2022. At the 123rd VFW National Convention in Kansas City, MO, she won the National Legislative Program Award #2 for best promotion of legislative education and member involvement and Program Award #3 for outstanding performance.

Belinda is a life member of the VFW National Home and a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, Wild Bunch #2.

On a personal level, Belinda played a vital role in the creation of the Global War on Terrorism Monument Organization in 2012. GWOT is a 501c3 organization whose primary goal was to raise money to build a monument that would honor our heroes from the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. With the love and passion Belinda showed for the cause, she was promoted to Co-Director in 2013. Under Belinda's leadership, the group raised over \$50,000 and the monument was built. Depicting all branches of service, it was unveiled in Crandall Park, Glens Falls, as part of the Veterans Day weekend ceremonies in 2018. The park beautification committee presented her a proclamation for her dedication.

Belinda has been employed at the Stewart's Distribution Center in Saratoga Springs as a Staff Accountant since 2006. She also sat on the Board of Directors for the Stewart's Federal Credit Union for 14 years before stepping down in October 2024. Belinda married her husband Dan (whom she recruited as a VFW Auxiliary life member) in September 2019.

We, the members of District 3, feel Belinda will fulfill the duties of the office of Senior Vice President with honor and integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen C. DesForge

Maryellen DesForge, District Secretary

By Order of Kathleen Hayward, District President