

January 26, 2026

Greeting Council of Administration members and Guests:

It is my distinct pleasure to endorse Kimberly Cavallo from the Auxiliary to Haspel-Staab VFW Post 551 in Middle Village, NY, District 1, for the high office of Department Guard.

Kim is the Secretary/Treasurer of her Auxiliary which was chartered in 2024. Although the Auxiliary is new to the organization, Kim herself is not. Kim grew up in a family of veterans. Her Grandfather Anthony "Duke" Gucwa was a WW2 Veteran- a recipient of a Purple Heart. It was through his service that she shaped her earliest understanding of patriotism, sacrifice, and the importance of supporting those who serve. She joined the Junior Girls Unit at VFW Post 2307 in Lynbrook because of his inspiration. She ultimately served that unit as its President. It is her memories of attending Conventions and serving as a Department Color Bearer that helped form the foundation of her commitment to the VFW Auxiliary.

Kim's father retired from the Army Reserves as a Lt. Colonel. This deepened her appreciation for military families and the sacrifices they make.

It is little wonder that when the former Commander to Post 551 reached out to her about reestablishing an Auxiliary to his post, she did not hesitate. She jumped in with both feet. In addition to serving as the Secretary/Treasurer to her Auxiliary, Kim is also the District 1 Secretary and the Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman.

These roles have strengthened her desire to serve and her commitment to support our veterans and active-duty service members and their families.

Current Post Commander, Sean Baltrusitis, says he has worked closely with Kim and she "consistently sets the standard that others strive to emulate when it comes to dedication, compassion, and commitment to the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary." He says she is the first to step forward, never seeking recognition, but is instead focused on the needs of veterans, especially those hospitalized or homebound, meeting their needs with dignity, respect, and care.

Commander Baltrusitis goes on to say her presence reflects positively on their Post, District, and the VFW Auxiliary as a whole. He feels she has all the qualities to be a great Department officer- patriotism, leadership, discipline, and compassion- and that she will represent the Auxiliary and the VFW with distinction.

Her Auxiliary 551, echoes many of these same sentiments, stating she steps in whenever help is needed and brings with her a “genuine spirit of service.”

In my own experiences with Kim, I have seen her always willing to step in as well. She accepted the appointment as Veterans & Family Support Chairman and shortly after, District 1 Secretary, without hesitation and a total willingness to serve the Organization. She has also become the “go to” person when I have needed to call ZOOM meetings on some pretty short notice. In one instance, she was letting members into a ZOOM meeting while shopping in the grocery store.

Kim and her “wonderful” husband, Alex, have been married for 23 years and are parents to three sons: Damien a 20-year-old Junior at Emory University, Thomas,16, a Junior in High School, and Christopher a 15-year-old High School Sophomore.

She has been with her current employer for 31 years, now serving as Managing Director. Kim believes her experiences, at work and in her sons’ schools, have enabled her to develop strong leadership, organizational, and communication skills, all necessary for a Department Officer.

On behalf of her Auxiliary, the Commander of VFW Post 551, and District 1, I proudly endorse Sister Kimmberly Cavallo to be the next Guard for the Department of NY VFW Auxiliary and ask your support for her candidacy.

Loyally

John Horsky, District 1 President