

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY DISTRICT 8**



September 14, 2025

Subject: Endorsement of Karen A. Dotson, PDP for National District Council Member #4

Dear Members of the Great State of New York:

At the September Fall District Meeting scheduled on September 14, 2025, the members of District 8 proudly endorsed Karen A Dotson, PDP for the high Office of National District Council Member #4 representing the VFW Auxiliary Departments of New York and Delaware. The election for the 2026 – 2028 term will take place at the Department of New York Convention in June.

Joining under the eligibility of her father, Edmund Fredette, a retired Navy Officer who served during WWII, the Korean War, and Vietnam Conflict, Karen is a life member of VFW Auxiliary to Chili Memorial Post 412 in Rochester. She holds the Office of Auxiliary President, District 8 Secretary, is a VFW National Home Centennial Life Member, member of MOCA Great Swampers 9.75 and is Grand President of the Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary.

Karen held elected and appointed Offices on the local, District and Department levels. She served as Department of New York President in 2016 – 2017 and had the honor to be inducted into the first Circle of Excellence class at the National Convention.

Karen served as Department Chief of Staff for PDP Debbie Casella, PDP Mary Makosky, PDP Ruth Huber, and Chief of Staff, Extension/Revitalization and Mentoring for JPDP Darlene Baker. She received National awards at each National convention. The Mentoring program modeled by Karen is currently being used by the Department of Missouri. Karen also served as Department President's advisor for PDP Mary Makosky and JPDP Darlene Baker.

During 2022 – 2023, Karen was elected Eastern Conference President. Each Department within the Eastern Conference attained 100% Plus in membership and Eastern Conference was the first place conference that year.

Karen is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, volunteers at Catherine's Cupboard Food Pantry, and is a member of St. Catherine's Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary where she has held various leadership positions. Prior to her retirement from IBM Corporation, she was the Global Project Test Manager with teams located in India, China, Argentina, Mexico, and Australia. Her key skills are patience, detail orientation, teamwork, and clear/concise communication.

Karen has the support of her husband, Michael, her children, Kimberly and Christopher, her nine grandchildren and her mother, Marita Fredette.

Your support of electing Karen Dotson as the 2026 – 2028 National District Council Member Area #4 at the June 2026 Department Convention would be appreciated.

*Lisa K. Raplee, PDP*  
District 8 President