



**VFW Auxiliary Department of New York District 3**

*Maryellen DesForge, Secretary Patricia McSwain, President Carrie Morrison Baker, Treasurer*

March 10, 2026

Dear Madam President Justine, Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, Sisters and Brothers, and Honored Guests,

At the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary to District 3 meeting on March 8, 2026, the members proudly voted unanimously to endorse Belinda Cole for the high office of Department of New York VFW Auxiliary President for 2026-2027.

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 Senior Vice President.

During her years in leadership, Belinda has earned multiple awards, including County Council President of the Year in 2015-2016; Runner-Up District President of the Year in 2019-2020 and again in 2021-2022; and two National Legislative Program Awards at the 123rd VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Kansas City Missouri: #2 for best promotion of legislative education and member involvement, and #3 for outstanding performance.

Belinda is a Centennial 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 Glens Falls Beautification Committee issued 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 recently retired from the Board of Directors for the Stewart's Federal Credit Union after 16 years of service. 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 with honor, integrity and leadership, to mentor any auxiliary or member who may be in need.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maryellen C. DesForge*

Maryellen DesForge, District Secretary

By Order of Patricia McSwain, District President