



Department of New York VFW Auxiliary to District 3

Maryellen DesForge, Secretary Rebecca Sweet, President Carrie Morrison Baker, Treasurer

February 2024

Dear Madam President and Members,

At the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary to District 3 meeting on February 4, 2024, the members proudly voted to endorse Belinda Cole for the office of Junior Vice-President in the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York for 2024-2025.

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

Belinda has held many positions and chairmanships on auxiliary, County Council, District and Department levels. She is currently the Department of New York Chaplain.

Beginning In 2011, Belinda moved through the chairs of the Hudson Mohawk Counties Council before becoming President in 2015-2016 when she received County Council President of the Year for her outstanding leadership.

In 2014, Belinda entered her first District 3 office as Guard. With the confidence of the membership, she moved through all the chairs learning the responsibilities of each before assuming the role of District 3 President for 2019-2020, when she was awarded Runner-up District President of the Year.

In 2016-2017, Belinda was Color Bearer #4 for PDP Denise McHugh; in 2017-2018, Color Bearer #1 for PDP Karen Dotson; and in 2020-2021, Chairman of the Cancer Grant Program for PDP Mary Makosky.

In 2021-2022, Belinda held three positions: Dept Guard and Dept Legislative Chairman - at which she won National Legislative Program Awards #2 (best promotion of legislative education and member involvement) and #3 (outstanding performance) - for PDP Ruth Huber, and District 3 President, again winning Runner-up District President of the Year.

In 2022-2023, Belinda held the positions of Department Conductress for Jr Past Department President Lisa Raplee and, again, District 3 President.

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.

Belinda has been employed at the Stewart's Distribution Center in Saratoga Springs as a Staff Accountant since 2006. She has also been involved with the Stewart's Federal Credit Union Board of Directors since 2009.

Belinda married her husband Dan (whom she recruited as a VFW Auxiliary member in 2018) in September 2019. They currently reside in Hudson Falls with their six fur babies.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen C. DesForge

Maryellen DesForge, Secretary

By Order of Rebecca Sweet, President