



*United We Stand*



# Indiana Combat Veteran

**Volume 68 Issue 4**

**September 2026**



**From the Commanders Desk:**

**We have hit the ground running only 2 months into the year and it has been non stop from attending 4th of July parades to district meetings, round tables and town hall meetings with our legislators.**

**We had our state golf outing, which mostly got rained out . But a lot of camaraderie was had by all who showed up .**

**Everyone is probably getting tired of hearing me say that the hardest part about being a VFW member is showing up. If we could get you to show up at our events we can accomplish anything.**

**Our state has been hit really hard this month with all of the storms and flooding, please reach out to your members make sure they are okay , and reach out to your communities let them know we are here to help with donations, food and water drives , let them know we care .**

**I had the honor to be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony to reopen the observation deck at the soldiers and sailors monument downtown Indy .**

**Looking forward to the C of A meeting and school of instruction coming up. And can't wait to go back to the National Home .**

**I would like to wish Diane Pettit the best of luck for her election to trustee of the National Home ( if you are a life member go vote ) . I would also like to congratulate Russell ( Gabby ) Pryor on his election as the National Riders Chaplain and National Cooties Jimmy Legs .**

**I want to thank you all for all of your hard work and everything you do for the VFW!**

**Yours in LOTCS,**

**Dave "Muffin" Hammons  
VFW State Commander  
Department of Indiana**



## Greetings Comrades & VFW Auxiliary Members,

I hope the September 2026 issue of our Combat Veteran finds you doing well.

I sort of feel like I am beating a dead horse here, but I still don't believe that my message to get reports of our deceased comrades in timely is working. So, I once again ask that you assist me in performing my duties by completing the Graves Registration form. A copy of the form is on the following page, but it is also available on the State web page. If you don't like the form, please feel free to Email me the information [ljpatch@mail.com]. I need the Veterans full name, Post #, District #, date of death, next of kin name & address and location of their grave site (cemetery). I can usually find the Obituary once I have the basic information.

I appreciate the feedback and support from you as I visit your post/district in my travels.

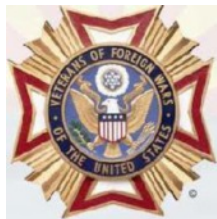
Please keep our hospitalized Veterans in your prayers, and thank you to those who have taken the time to go visit them in the hospital and nursing homes. Having been on the receiving end it really is appreciated!

May your summer be fruitful and enjoyable! God bless our deployed troops!

Yours in LOTCS,

Larry Patch





## Graves Registration Report Department of Indiana VFW



**Mail to:** Larry J Patch

Department of Indiana VFW Chaplain

9034 Eiderdown Way

Indianapolis, IN 46234

Or Email report to [ljpatch@mail.com](mailto:ljpatch@mail.com)

**Subject:** Report of Deceased Comrade

Post # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ regrets to report the death of

---

(Last Name)

(Middle Initial)

(First Name)

Whose address was \_\_\_\_\_

Who served with \_\_\_\_\_ During \_\_\_\_\_  
(Branch of Service) War or Conflict

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Burial Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Address of next of kin

---

(Mailing Address)

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Obituary Enclosed Yes/No

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)



# Advocating for Veterans



Governor Mike Braun and  
Past All American VFW  
Commander/Legislative  
Chairman Richard Leirer





# INDIANA VETERAN PROPERTY TAX REFORM 2026

## What Does This Mean?



**TOTAL PROPERTY  
TAX RELIEF**  
For TOP top tier



**LIFTING  
VALUE CAP**

• Simplifies tax structure with both-line credits.



**CREDIT  
SYSTEM**



**URGENT ACTION REQUIRED: YOU MUST ACT!**

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

1



State Form 51186

2



County Auditor

## REGISTRATION TIMELINE



**SURVIVING SPOUSES**  
The veteran satisfied the  
eligibility requirements;  
Surviving own by the  
deceased veteran.

1



DISABILITY 10-90%  
& OVER AGE 62

**\$250.00**  
Annual Tax Credit

3



DISABILITY 10-90%, WARTIME  
SERVICE & OVER AGE 62

**\$600.00**  
Annual Tax Credit

2



DISABILITY 10-90% &  
WARTIME SERVICE

**\$350.00**  
Annual Tax Credit

4



DISABILITY 100% OR INDIVIDUAL  
UNEMPLOYABILITY (IU)

**100%**  
ANNUAL TAX DEDUCTION

## GET CONNECTED WITH YOUR CVSO



[www.in.gov/dva](http://www.in.gov/dva)



call 317.232.3910  
or scan this code.



# Indiana Veteran Property Tax Reform 2026

## What Does This Mean?

1. Total property tax relief for 100% Service Connected and Individual Unemployable veterans.
2. Eliminates all assessed value caps.
3. Simplifies tax structure with bottom-line credits.

## Do I NEED to Do Something?

### YES! You Must Act!

All Indiana veterans and surviving spouses currently receiving Indiana Disabled Veteran Property Tax Deductions, and new applicants, **MUST** register for property tax credits.

## How Do I Register?

You must bring a completed and signed State Form 51186 to your County Auditor's Office.

- The State Form 51186 can be completed at your County Veteran Service Office.

## When Do I Register?

**After July 1, 2026 and before Dec. 30, 2026**

- Be prepared. Get your State Form 51186 completed by making an appointment with your CVSO office.

## When Will I See the Benefit?

The benefit will begin with your 2027 tax bill.

## What About Surviving Spouses?

The surviving spouse is eligible if:

- The veteran satisfied the eligibility requirements at the time of passing; and
- Surviving spouse owns or is buying the property.  
(Regardless of whether the property was owned by the deceased veteran)

## How Do I Qualify?

Veteran must have a current VA Service Connected Disability rating of:  
100% **OR** Individual Unemployability (IU)  
to earn: **100%** Annual Property Tax Deduction

Veteran must have a current VA Service Connected Disability rating of:  
10%-90% **PLUS** Wartime Service **AND** be  
over age 62 to earn: **\$600.<sup>00</sup>** Annual Property Tax Credit

Veteran must have a Current VA Service Connected Disability rating of:  
10%-90% **AND** be over age 62 to earn:  
**\$250.<sup>00</sup>** Annual Property Tax Credit

Veteran must have a Current VA Service Connected Disability rating of:  
10%-90% **AND** Wartime Service to earn:  
**\$350.<sup>00</sup>** Annual Property Tax Credit

To be connected with your CVSO: visit [www.in.gov/dva](http://www.in.gov/dva), call 317.232.3910,  
or scan this code.





# State Convention Photo's





# State Convention Photo's





# State Convention Photo's





# Indianapolis 500 Photos





# Indianapolis 500 Photos





# Linton July 4th Parade





# Linton July 4th Parade





# Commander Hammons Reception





# Commander Hammons Reception





# Commander Hammons Reception

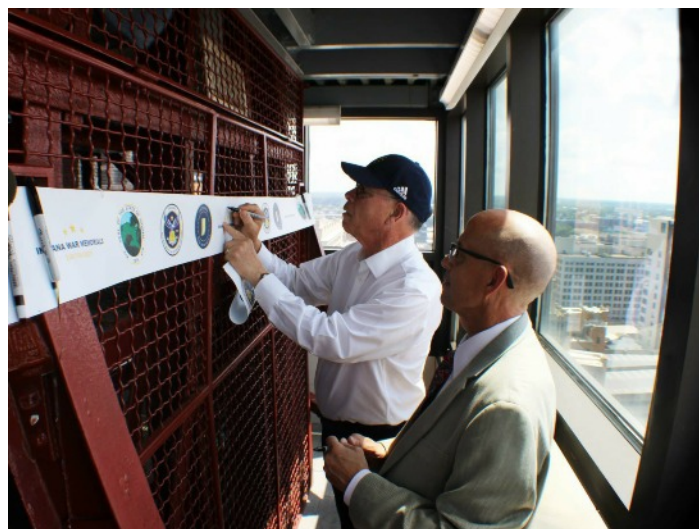




The image shows the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis, Indiana, a tall, white, tapered column topped with a statue of Victory. The monument features a large, ornate base with relief sculptures and inscriptions. The base is surrounded by a crowd of people, and the monument is set against a blue sky with scattered clouds. Modern city buildings are visible in the background.



# Grand Re-opening of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument





# Grand Re-opening of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument



**SOLDIERS AND SAILORS  
MONUMENT REOPENS  
OBSERVATION DECK**





# Department Sr Vice Commander's Activities





# Department Sr Vice Commander's Activities





# July Veterans Advocacy trip to DC





# 2026 School of Instruction Photo's





# Message from our Auxiliary President

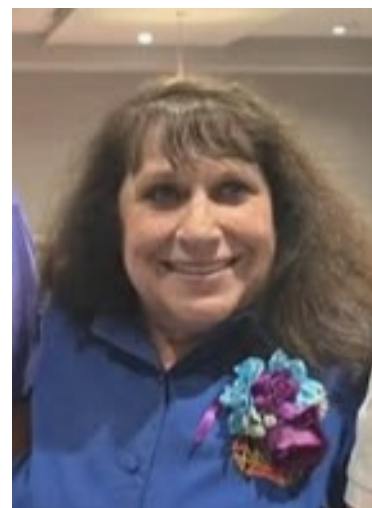
Dear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

Hello, my name is Carolyn Patch and I have the honor of being the Department President for the Department of Indiana VFW Auxiliary. This year I and our Department Commander have embraced working together in true unity. We are committed to working our programs together so that our resources are joined. The Auxiliary is here to support our veterans, their families, our youth and our communities. I am delighted to have a joint special project with the Commander which is the Mishawaka Troop Town. Mishawaka Troop Town is a special home with four fully furnished duplexes designed to give veterans who have been homeless or are having other difficulties transitioning into civilian life, a hand up. This is not a handout. They must work towards their independence with programs designed to help them get back on their feet. This project will be ongoing as they strive to serve more and more veterans needing special assistance not only in their community but in the surrounding areas. It is my dream to see that no veteran is homeless or living in circumstances that are not conducive to living in happiness and productivity.

This year my slogan is “Catching Dreams for Our Veterans”. It is my hope that we can bring that suicide rate down with every resource we have available to support all of our veterans in need.

Loyally,

Carolyn J. Patch  
VFWA Department of Indiana President  
2026-2027





**2026-27**  
**SCHOOL**  
*of*  
**INSTRUCTION**

**LEARN. ★ LEAD. ★ LAUGH. ★ REPEAT.**

**AUGUST 28-29, 2026**  
**INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT EAST**

Great Training.  
Great People.  
★ **GREAT TIME!**

LET'S LEARN.  
LET'S GROW.  
LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

FUELED BY  
COFFEE &  
VETERAN SPIRIT!

NEW OFFICER?  
OLD OFFICER?  
WE'VE GOT  
YOU COVERED!

NOTES TO SELF:  
☒ LEARN  
☒ LEAD  
☒ MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

COME LEARN,  
SHARE, AND GROW  
WITH YOUR  
AUXILIARY FAMILY!

★ **FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026** ★

|                 |                                        |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| 4:00pm – 7:00pm | REGISTRATION                           |
| 3:00pm – 3:30pm | DEPARTMENT LINE OFFICERS MEETING       |
| 3:45pm – 4:15pm | DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN MEETING            |
| 4:30pm – 5:30pm | DISTRICT PRESIDENT w/ CHIEF OF STAFF'S |
| 5:30pm – 6:30pm | DINNER (ON YOUR OWN)                   |
| 6:30pm – 7:00pm | SECRETARY TRAINING                     |
| 7:00pm – 7:30pm | PRESIDENT TRAINING                     |
| 7:30pm – 9:00pm | TREASURER, TRUSTEE, AND MALTA TRAINING |

**TWO DAYS. ENDLESS KNOWLEDGE. STRONGER TOGETHER. ★**



# Auxiliary Photo's

