

# *Kay Gedling for National Guard 2024-2025*

*“A New Day A New Way:  
Honor the Traditions while Evolving with the  
Generations.”*

## **Why should I vote for Kay Gedling as our next National Guard.**

**Encouragement of my department.** After everything was said and done, I was STRONGLY encouraged by members of my department to continue in the race to become our National President, as a representation of their desire to take an entirely different approach to the future of our organization. "It has always been done this way" is represented by the process of endorsing a candidate by those who wish to continue on a path that is clearly leading to the slow and eventual demise of our ability to continue to serve our veterans due to lack of motivated new members. A large number of members in my home department felt that this did not represent their wish to take a new and innovative approach to a position in the National Line. These members see that our organization needs to evolve, and are strongly encouraging me to continue this journey, because they believe that I am the person to take that road less traveled and bring about the meaningful change that will enable us to continue serving our veterans long into the future.

**This is my passion.** After serving in the military for 25 years myself, I have found that my true calling is to serve our Veterans and their families. As a daughter, sister, wife, and mother, I have lived through each of my family members being away either in combat zones or just serving overseas. This has truly given me the experience to be able to relate to each member in this organization.

### **The Vision of Our Future:**

#### **The next 100+ years**

Our organization faces the very real possibility of dying simply due to attrition. The average age of our members is 65+ years of age. We need to start making changes to our organization which will ensure that we are a viable and powerful

advocate for our Veterans for the next 100+ years. The ONLY way to do this is to make our organization appealing to younger generations, to meet them where THEY are, and show them that there is a need and desire for their unique skill set(s) and abilities. We can show them that through membership in the VFW Auxiliary, they can be the change they are hoping for, for veterans and families just like theirs.

### **Encourage Patriotism**

We ALL can see that the ideals this country was founded on, and the love of our great land and her people (Patriotism) is diminishing before our eyes. The task falls to us to make sure that our children learn; love of country and teach them how to show the type of true patriotism that we have grown up knowing. Americans need to come together like we did after 9/11.

### **Transparency**

Our organization needs to be more transparent when it comes to how we run our organization. When budgeting at every level of this organization, there are the “must have” and the “nice to have”. Making sure that the “must haves” are the priority helps us to avoid having to ask our membership to pay more when their personal finances are already stretched to a breaking point. Once we have shown appropriate fiduciary responsibility, we can look to the “nice to haves” with a clearer conscience and make our cuts there. It is our duty to make sure that our membership is aware of how this organization is conducting business.

### **Continual Improvement of Our Image**

Placing our focus on making sure that the image of this organization is forward thinking, honorable, and respectful of our heritage of helping Veterans and their families, is what will finally erase the cliché of being a place where old folks go to drink. Our motto is “Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heros”; making sure that the public knows this is **what we stand for**, and this is **what we do** is my top priority... and always will be.

It is a new day and a new way, so let's **Honor the Traditions While Evolving with the Generations** and elect **Kay Gedling** as the next **National Guard for 2024-2025** at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky (July 27-August 1, 2024).