



Bambi L. Johnson Candidate for Department Guard

Allow me to introduce myself and give you some background on myself and my work with the VFW Auxiliary. I joined the Auxiliary on the eligibility of my father, Thomas W. Scott, a U.S. Navy veteran from the Korean War. Many members thru the generations of my family have been proud members of the military and served in foreign conflicts. I, myself, am a peacetime Army veteran.

I am originally from the small town of Washington, PA, just south of Pittsburgh. In my sophomore year of high school, I made the decision to continue the family tradition of military service and did a delayed enlistment with the Army to begin as soon as I graduated. By the date of my graduation, my sister Bridget decided to enlist as well, and we shipped out a few months later. We both completed our basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. We gained confidence and strength of character thru our service and upon honorable discharge at the end of our service, continued to support veterans thru association with the American Legion.

After my sister died in '89 in a car crash, I immediately adopted her girls, aged 9 and 11, and raised them as my own. One of them, Laura, served as an Army nurse and assisted in the 9/11 Pentagon tragedy. She rejoined the military as an Air Force nurse and is currently serving in Florida. The other daughter, Rebecca, served in the Air Force in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom as nuclear, biological, chemical defense.

While raising the girls, several of my family members suffered from various terminal conditions that left them needing personal care. I spend most of my non-work time as a caregiver thru their passing including my grandmother, who was in my care for 14 years. During these years, my girls and I spent a lot of time at nursing facilities aiding family members or anyone else as needed. I believe this is what let my youngest to enter nursing.

I moved to Arizona and became a Life Member of the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 7968. After being a member for a few years, I became their Americanism Chairman and Patriotic Instructor. During this time my marriage ended, and the sisterhood helped me thru this period of change.

I remarried a 21-year Army Veteran, Jim Johnson, who is currently the Commander of VFW Post 9399, and transferred to that post in 2012. I became their Auxiliary President the next year and served three years in that position. Two of my three years as their President we received the Circle of Excellence Award. During the 2016-2017 year I also served as Conductress for District 10.

My devotion to Youth Activities guided me thru the 2015-2016 program years as Youth Chairman for the Department and we earned a National Citation for our program work. I strongly believe that tomorrow is based on what we teach the youth of our country today. My girls are strong, caring, proud Americans because they were taught what it means to be a contributing citizen of a free country from a young age.

During the 2016-2017 year, I served as the Department Chairman for Veterans and Family Support and earned a National Citation for the Department. and will do my absolute best for the Veterans and Family Support Program. It was truly an honor to serve the VFWA in its efforts to assist our veterans, their families and our communities.

During the 2016-2017 I had announced my intention to run the Department Guard but withdrew due to personal issues. I spent the 2017-2018 both resolving those personal issues and being a Mentor for both my home Auxiliary as well as other Auxiliaries who asked for my assistance. I have returned as Senior Vice President for Auxiliary 9399 for this year.

I am currently serving during the 2018-2019 year as Department Chief of Staff. I will be traveling throughout Arizona both for District training sessions (MIT) and to assist new and existing Auxiliaries to be the strongest, healthiest they can be.

I am seeking your support in my effort to attain the position of Department Guard for the 2019-2020 year.

I believe that I have much to offer as we continue to grow our membership and our assistance to all our veterans, their families and our communities.

Should anyone wish additional information, please contact me via email: wzzrd2@hotmail.com or by phone or text at: 480-318-2131.