NOMINATION FOR AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR

Manatee County Veterans Council | 17 September 2026

Nominee: Paige Coletti Dilione
Position: President, VFW Auxiliary to Palma Sola VFW Post 10141
Submitted by: Ian Brooks-Miller, Commander, VFW Post 10141

It is my privilege to nominate Paige Coletti Dilione for Auxiliary of the Year. Paige serves as President of the VFW Auxiliary to Palma Sola VFW Post 10141, and I submit this nomination as her Post Commander and as someone who has watched her work week after week for several years.

Paige joined the VFW Auxiliary in September 2008, four months after the death of her husband, a veteran. The two of them had volunteered together for years, and when he passed she chose to keep that work going in his memory. Eighteen years later, she is still keeping it. Having stood beside a veteran, she knows better than most what our members carry during service and long after it, and that understanding shows in how she treats everyone who comes through our doors. She moved from San Diego to Bradenton in July 2021 to be closer to family and transferred her Life Membership to Post 10141.

In 2022 the Post needed help in the kitchen for Taco Tuesday. Paige said yes, and she has been there every Tuesday since — four years of standing up a meal service for our members and their families, with no expectation of recognition. If I had to name the single hardest-working volunteer at our Post, I would name Paige, and I do not think anyone who has walked through our doors on a Tuesday would argue with me.

Her service reaches well past the kitchen. She has helped coordinate our Buddy Poppy drives and has worked our suicide awareness efforts, our shoe drives, our food collections, and our back-to-school supply drives. She has also worked with youth programs, including the Girl Scouts. Inside the Post she calls Bar BINGO on Sundays and started a monthly BUNCO night, always looking for ways to bring Post and Auxiliary members together and give families a reason to spend time under the same roof.

Paige is present at the District and Department level as well, attending every conference, meeting, and training, and staying mission-focused the entire time she is there. She goes to learn what the Auxiliary is being asked to do and to bring it back to Post 10141, and our Post is better informed and better run because she does.

For years Paige was content to work behind the scenes, serving as an Auxiliary Trustee specifically because she would not take an officer position. That changed in 2026, when she was nominated for President and accepted. The office has not changed how she carries herself. She still considers herself a member no different from any other, and she leads by doing the work first. She will not ask anyone to do a job she is not willing to do, and I have watched her prove that in the kitchen, at setup, and during cleanup long after an event has ended.

In my time as Commander I have never once heard Paige say no, and I have never seen her hesitate when something needed to be done. She does all of it to honor her late husband, and she does it with a smile. She is a pleasure to be around and to work with, which matters more in an organization run entirely on volunteers than any title on a roster. For her years of service, her leadership by example, and her unwavering commitment to our veterans and our community, I respectfully submit Paige Coletti Dilione for consideration as Auxiliary of the Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Brooks-Miller
Commander, VFW Post 10141 | Senior Vice Commander, District 10, VFW Department of Florida
(941) 807-4609 | IanFLRealtor@gmail.com

