

My name is Mary “Angela” Gaskins, and I am honored to serve as the Department of South Carolina Auxiliary Youth Chairman for 2025–2026. I am a proud Life Member of Post 9509 in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, where I joined under my husband, Shannon Gaskins. Shannon completed multiple tours in Iraq and was medically discharged in 2011. His service and sacrifice are a big part of why I’m so committed to supporting veterans and their families through the VFW Auxiliary.

When I’m not at the post volunteering or participating in events to support our veterans, I’m at home enjoying time with our three dogs, Cletus (5), a boxer mix, and Dory and Dex (2), our playful Boykin Spaniels. Whether I’m helping organize a fundraiser, attending a meeting, or just lending a hand where needed, I truly love being part of a community that honors those who have served.

One thing I’ve noticed over the years is that the VFW is often viewed by the public as a place only for older veterans. While we absolutely honor and support our older members, it’s just as important to recognize that the VFW represents veterans of all ages and experiences. That’s where our youth come in. If we want the mission of the VFW and its Auxiliary to thrive for generations to come, we need to start with educating and involving young people.

That’s why serving as Youth Chairmen is so meaningful to me. I want to help our auxiliaries across the state connect more with youth—through events, outreach, and education—and show them what the VFW is about. It’s not just about the past; it’s about the future. It’s about service, sacrifice, community, and pride. My hope is to inspire the next generation to get involved, give back, and carry forward the legacy of honoring and supporting our nation's heroes.



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