

# HOSPITAL PROGRAM

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

September 2023 Volume 23 Issue 3

## Women's Veterans Health Care

- Encourage members to learn about the Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) calling **1.855.829.6636** for information on: VA Health Care if not already, answering questions about eligibility for disability and other VA benefits, enroll in email messages for information to share.
- Help educate women veterans in your area including your VFW Post members by hosting a community educational seminar, for more information go to the website: [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov), where more information is available.



## "Stand Up, Speak Out"

**Dept. President, Teresa Bachand's, 23/24 special project: share and make members aware: MST – Military Sexual Trauma** - Sexual trauma experienced while in the military service affects both men and women—with serious and long-term consequences. According to the Department of Defense, more than 7,600 individuals reported a sexual assault in fiscal year (FY) 2018, which is the most recent data available.<sup>2</sup> This statistic is an increase of about 12.6 percent from 2017. Understandably, many veterans who have experienced MST are reluctant to report the sexual assault either at the time of its occurrence or even much later. It is vital that VA makes every effort to properly communicate available MST services to veterans and that both VHA and VBA staff work expeditiously and with sensitivity to ensure the provision of needed care, treatment, and benefits.

Suggest you reach out to your local VA Medical facilities and ask for contact MST counselor for veterans to be a guest speaker at one of your monthly meetings.

**"It's Nice to be Nice" ....**

***See someone without a smile, share yours with them! make both your days better, especially if you know they are a Veteran.***

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