

Veterans & Family Support

"Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others"

Volume 23

Issue 2

July 2022

Homeless Veterans

Homelessness among veterans in Florida has been effectively cut by almost 70% since 2010. A significant cause for Florida's substantial decrease in the rate of homelessness among veterans are national initiatives to end veteran homelessness. In Florida, millions of dollars have been invested through VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families grants, as well as HUD VA Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers that provide long-term rental assistance to help homeless veterans with high needs obtain and sustain permanent housing. Florida Point-In-Time (PIT) Counts – 2010 reported 7,794 homeless veterans. The 2019 count reported 2,472 homeless veterans.

Florida's Homeless Veterans Coordinator can be reached by calling **(727) 575-8136**



VA Website for Homeless Veterans
www.va.gov/homeless/

Florida Department of Children and Families
www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness

Florida Council on Homelessness
www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/council

VISN 8 Homeless Veterans Outreach
www.visn8.va.gov/VISN8/services/homeless/index.asp



Department Awards for Auxiliaries

- Outstanding Performance Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four membership classes for outstanding fundraising activities for National Veterans Service (NVS)
- First, Second & Third Place Award for most outstanding fundraising activities for VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs, Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and VFW's "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship"
- An Award to the Auxiliary that has the Best Overall project, event or activity that supports veteran, military, and family caregivers.
- An Award to the Auxiliary that has the best overall promotion of Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.

Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention

An overwhelming 20 veterans commit suicide every day. The VFW & Auxiliary are working hard to help change how mental health is viewed.

Your Auxiliaries can help by sharing this information:

- **The Veterans Crisis line** connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with the help they need. Call **1-800-273-8255** and Press 1, or Text **838255** to receive confidential support.
- The **Give an Hour Campaign to Change Direction** encourages everyone to pay attention to emotional wellbeing and reminds us of the importance of mental health. www.giveanhour.org/changedirection
- The **Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Hidden Heroes** brings attention to the untold stories of military caregivers and seeks solutions for the challenges and long-term needs they will face. www.hiddenheroes.org
- **Raise Awareness** in your Post & Community by downloading a teardrop from: www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources
Hold a fund raiser for donations where members can donate for a teardrop to be dedicated & displayed.



**VFW Auxiliaries
Making a Difference
Every Day!**