

# VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

## Program Goals:

- VFW National Veterans Service (NVS)
- Promote Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness
- VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs
- Assist Veterans, Service Members and Their Families

### DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"Stand Up, Speak Out"*

### NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"Banding Together For Veterans"*

Your mission this year is to document your VOLUNTEERISM ***"In Banding together for our Veterans"***, we know you do the work that aids our Veterans, the support you give our Military & all their families plus the activities you conduct in our communities. Don't be the only one that knows all the wonderful & amazing things you do in fulfilling this mission with all your heart & passion. It's time now to ***"Stand Up, Speak Out"***. You ask How??? By REPORTING!!! We have 130+ Auxiliaries in our Department answering the call & some not putting one report in. Our new website has made this simple & easy. You can read the work that was reported by other members & then you can add yours. The goals set forth under the Veteran & Family Support (VFS) program is the heart of all we do as an auxiliary for our Veterans. So ***"Stand Up, Speak Out"*** we can get this done is by ***"Banding Together for our Veterans"!!!***

The 1<sup>st</sup> Goal this year & needed more than ever is your support for our VFW Accredited Service Officers & our National Veterans Service (NVS). These officers can navigate the VA system for our Veterans & Families, connect them to their VA Benefits, bring awareness of the financial assistance that's available, provide guidance to educational programs & funding, as well as give professional direction with career counseling. Through your monetary donations you support these officers & support their endeavors. They have proven their work by recovering over \$1 billion annually in VA benefits. The cost to the Veteran & their dependents is nothing. It is FREE & available to all Veterans. Your support is vital & is given to VFW National HQ. This is one of the reasons why you must ***"Stand Up, Speak Out"*** by reporting your support on our website. It is the only way we will know about your Auxiliary's contribution & any endeavors made to raise these funds.

Donations to NVS can be made securely online go to:

[vfw.org/ways-to-help](http://vfw.org/ways-to-help) select National Veterans Service & click Contribute.

Donation by mail can be done by sending a check earmarked NVS to:

VFW National Headquarters (Attn: NVS)

406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Kansas City, MO. 64111

Our 2nd goal in ***"Banding Together for our Veterans"*** is promoting Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness. This is not new to us. More than 16 Veterans commit suicide a day & yes, the numbers are lower but the loss of one is to many. You can add the Veterans confidential Toll-free Crisis Line, the online chat info, & text message numbers to your cell phone as a contact thereby making it easier to look up & share. Through awareness in recognizing the warning signs & changing the way we look at mental wellness, we can be the way to address the issues in a new light. Check out the resources listed in the National Program Book under the Veterans & Family Support Program (Pg57-60) by Ambassador Tessa Butcher, the page under Mental Wellness & Resources has some fresh ideas. Support our Tear Drop program by buying an Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Prevention pin from the VFW Store & start the conversation. We can ***"Stand Up, Speak Out"*** & make a difference.

# VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The 3rd Goal is our VFW Veterans & Military Support Program by **“Banding Together for Veterans”** we can **“Stand Up, Speak Out”** through the support we get & give to our corporate sponsors such as Humana, Burger King, & Sports Clips who underwrite the VFW “Sport Clips” Help a Hero Scholarship. They provide a community link with support for our Veterans. Part of this goal is our Military Support Program (MAP) where we serve our active duty & discharged Veterans. This program can help fund send offs, homecomings, Adopt-a Unit, Family Readiness Group Event & help cover postage costs of care packages. For Guidelines on MAP contact VFW Veterans & Military Support office 816-756-3390. Another support we give our military families is through grant assistance provided by Unmet Needs which can provide grants up to \$1500 payable to a creditor to cover gaps in mortgage or rent, cover utility costs, Insurance, & car repair. For more info on Unmet Needs contact [vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](http://vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants). Again, you must **“Stand Up, Speak Out”** by reporting your support. It is the only way we will know about your auxiliary’s contribution & any endeavors made to raise these funds.

Donations to this part of our VFS program can be done online or sent to VFW National

Donations to Veterans & Military Support can be made securely online go to:

[vfw.org/ways-to-help](http://vfw.org/ways-to-help) select Veterans & Military Support & click Contribute.

Donation by mail can be done by sending a check earmarked Veterans & Military Support to:

VFW National Headquarters

(Attn: Veterans & Military Support)

406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Kansas City, MO. 64111

The 4<sup>th</sup> Goal covers the “Rest of the Story”. It recognizes the direct aid we give Veterans, Service Members & their families; the Donations to disaster relief & your creative fundraising efforts as well as the things you do for our VFW Vet Village in Ft. McCoy. This part of the VFS Program also gives you the stage to highlight the volunteer work you do for our President’s Special Project which is a Floridian program. New, is the work we do to improve the lives & support we give to our Women Veterans. Look for more on this to come. These are exciting times to join the tried & true with the brand new!!

So, let’s **“Stand Up, Speak Out”** as we **“Banding Together for our Veterans”** through our VFS program.

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

### 1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

- Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) membership classes that hosts an activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

### 2. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members and their families.

- Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) memberships classes that hosts an activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members and their families. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

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# VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

## NATIONAL AWARDS:

### AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

#### **3. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.**

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

#### **4. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members and their families.**

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members and their families. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members and their families. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

Jean Lockwood  
Chairman  
jeanciolaalockwood52@gmail.com