

# VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

## Program Goals:

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

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"Champion for Veterans"*

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"*

**"Champion for Veterans"** and **"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"** are two very appropriate themes for the Veterans and Family Support Program. These resonate with each and every one of us and is a big part of what we do every day. The support of the VFW Programs, and other veteran programs provide help for veterans who have given a part of themselves in defense of our country. Our Goal is to identify resources and outreach programs that provide support for veterans and support & highlight their efforts.

- **VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS)** consists of a nationwide network of VFW Accredited Service Officers who are experts in dealing with the VA. They help veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve. Benefits include disability compensation (pension & death benefits), medical rehabilitation, educational, employment and training programs. There is no cost for this to the veteran, also the veteran does not have to be a member of the VFW.
- **VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs** serve active-duty and recently discharged members of the military.
  - ✓ **Unmet Needs** is there to help America's military families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties because of deployment or other military-related activity or injury.
  - ✓ **VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"** provides service members and veterans with scholarships of up to \$5,000 to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student load debt.
  - ✓ **The Military Assistance Program (MAP Grants)** help to provide financial assistance to VFW Post and Auxiliaries to sponsor troop send-offs, homecomings, and get-togethers. Posts and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-A-Unit and Family Readiness Groups can also receive assistance.
  - ✓ **The Veterans Village in Ft. McCoy** provides a true home-like atmosphere to veterans and their spouses. The Village needs our support to continue to provide a place for our veterans and their spouses in their retirement.
- **Assist Veterans, Service Members and Their Families**

The Veterans and Family Support Program is our opportunity to provide aid and support to those who have given so much for us all, our veterans and their families.

  - ✓ **Support for Caregivers:** Many individuals take on the responsibility of caring for veterans. These are mainly family members or friends that play a very important role in the veteran's life. To learn more, go to [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov) National Family Care Giver month is recognized in November and the month of the Military Caregiver is in May.
  - ✓ **Homeless Veterans:** There are over 67,000 homeless veterans in America and according to a 2019 Florida Point-In-Time Count there were 2,472 homeless veterans in Florida alone. This is down 70% from 2010, but there is still much to be done. For more information go to: [www.va.gov/homeless/](http://www.va.gov/homeless/)

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## • **Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness**

Heartbreakingly 20 veterans a day commit suicide but there are things you can do:

- ✓ Learn the 5 signs: 1. Depressed mood. 2. Lack of interest. 3 feelings of worthlessness. 4. Poor concentration. 5. Thoughts of death or suicide.
- ✓ Carry the Veterans Crisis Card with you or on your phone. Call 1-800-273-8255 press 1 for help or text 838255.
- ✓ Wear the blue teardrop sticker or pin to show you support to prevent veteran suicide.
- ✓ Get more information online [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

***Together we can make a positive difference in the lives of our Veterans, Military, their Families, and Caregivers.***

## DEPARTMENT

### SPECIAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

- 1. Most Outstanding activity/or event that supports veteran, military, and family caregivers.**
  - Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Membership Classes with the Most Outstanding activity and/or event that supports veteran, military, and family caregivers.  
*Criteria and entry form (required) at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources). Auxiliaries are to send entry forms(required) to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2023.*
- 2. Most Outstanding activity and/or event that increases awareness of homeless Veterans.**
  - Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Membership Classes with the Most Outstanding activity and/or event that increases awareness of homeless Veterans.  
*Criteria and entry form (required) at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources). Auxiliaries are to send entry forms(required) to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2023.*

### NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

- 1. Most Outstanding activity and/or event that supports veteran, military and family caregivers.**
  - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that supports veteran, military and family caregivers.  
*Criteria and entry form (required) available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) Auxiliaries are to send entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2023.  
Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.*
  - Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that supports veteran, military, and family caregivers.  
*Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.*
- 2. Most outstanding activity and/or event that increases awareness of homeless veterans.**
  - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase awareness of homeless veterans. Criteria and entry form (required) available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) .  
*Auxiliaries are to send entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2023.  
Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.*
  - Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that increases awareness of homeless veterans.  
*Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.*

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