

Suggestions for Hospital & VAVS

HOW TO SUPPORT VETERANS IN THE HOSPITAL PROGRAM

***Final Salute** is a program set up to honor and show reverence to a Veteran at their time of death. Your Auxiliary can register to participate at a nursing home or hospice facility. The staff will call at the time of a Veterans passing. At that time your Auxiliary would drape the Veteran with an American flag and escort the deceased from the building. The families will be grateful for your condolences and words of comfort.

***Women Veteran Health program** is growing, as the needs of women Veterans are recognized. There are many ways that our Auxiliaries can help.

- Donations to assist the homeless through the V.A. clinics/Hud Wash.
- Food boxes, toiletries, blankets
- Comfort items for the hospitalized.
- Lap blankets and shawls for the nursing home and Cancer center.
- Acknowledgement gifts, gifts of appreciation during Female Veteran month.
- Sponsor a “mom to be” during the V.A. sponsored Baby shower.

***Giving Tree** takes place in November. The V.A. asks the Auxiliaries to sponsor a Veteran family with financial insecurities. They provide a detailed list of needs for each family. Donations are collected by the VAVS Representative or Deputy, or dropped off at your VA hospital or clinic CDCE office. Collect a donation form as receipt.

***Memorial Day garden of flags** The Auxiliaries set up an appointed time with a VA Hospital or clinic. Bring a table cloth 4”x6” flags, and tags that twist tie. Ask the Veterans and companions “would you like to remember someone?” Help them to write the name of their Veteran on the tag. Tie it to the flag stick, and place them in the ground all around the tall flag outside the facility. Poppies can be added to the flag stick as well. Be sure the flag is on top. Collect a donation form as a receipt. Include a copy with your report pictures.

***Salute to Veteran Patient Week** is the week of Valentine’s Day. This is our opportunity to go to hospitals, clinics, hospice, Domiciliary, and hand out love. Reserve a timeslot at a facility, so you can greet the Veterans and their companion with a handmade card saying, “We Love You Veteran”, or “Thank You for your Service”. Make candy bags with Hershey kisses. Tie the bags with red ribbon and attach a small Valentine’s Day card. Host a bingo party with a Valentine’s Day theme. Remember the Veterans at your Post. They love being loved too!

***Vietnam Veteran Day** in the Hospital program is very important. The VA Hospitals have a ceremony on that day. It’s a great opportunity to set up a “comfort table”, providing snacks, beverages, and handmade cards that say, “Welcome Home”. But mostly, give of yourself. Greet our Vietnam Veterans with caring and compassion. Give recognition at your post as well.

Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes for Veteran families with food insecurities. The boxes are collected at the VA Hospital CDCE and distributed to Veteran families through Hud Wash. Details will be released by October.