

**FAST FACTS FOR THE
HOSPITAL / VAVS PROGRAM 2022/2023**

**Bonnie S. Drake – 2022-2023 Department of Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary Chairman
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1. Recruiting and Engaging Volunteers: VFW, Auxiliary, as well as Non-Members
Human interaction is one of the greatest things we give our hospitalized Veterans.
Volunteering is one of the most meaningful ways you can honor our Veterans, who have sacrificed so much. Try to find time to spare a day at least once a month and Volunteer, it will bring you and our Veterans more joy than you can imagine.
2. Finding new and creative ways to serve our Veterans
The possibilities are endless and here are a few ideas: *Put on a play *Have a sing-along *Game night *Story telling time *Bingo *Cake or Cookie Decorating Contests *Veterans share time (they share, you write and then later put their words on paper in a frame with their picture, so they can see it more) *Sip and Paint *Talent contests *Take them to a ball game *Have a craft night (Check with your local VA/Hospitals, Nursing Homes, etc. and see what help they need, what they will permit to be done to make our Veterans feel special).
3. Honoring Veterans on Holidays
Imagine if you couldn't get together with family and friends during the Holidays, now think about our Veterans who would love to be remembered and not feel like they are forgotten. Look at a calendar, ask Siri, Alexa or pull up google and you will find there is some event every single month. If every Auxiliary would do something at a local hospital, VA, nursing home, etc. it would brighten their day!
4. Recognition of Volunteers/Representatives/Deputies
Let the Volunteers, Reps and Deps know how much they are appreciated. Anything you can do for them to let them know how valuable they are; like a certificate, special day of recognition, or a gift card with a thank you note. A THANK YOU goes a long way!
5. Women's Veterans Health Care
Women have played a part in the Armed Forces for centuries, it's time to see what you can do to make sure they are cared for too. Check out the Pennsylvania and National website to see the many ways to help our Women Veterans.
6. "Final Salute" Honors Escort Program
What a moving and special way to honor the Veterans who have passed. Every hospital, VA, Nursing home, etc. should set this program up. Find out how you can help!!!
7. Thinking outside the Box – "Pennsylvania Pouch" Special Project
(Samples and directions to make them are available), what a great project to participate in.

Every day we will "**Respect...Honor...Remember**" (Valerie DeCorte, 2022-2023 State President's theme) and continue to assist our Veterans and their families with "**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care.**" Jane Reape (2022-2023 National President's theme)