

# Hospital

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As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we are aware of the importance of veterans. We believe **“Every Day is Veterans Day”** and our gratitude stretches **“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans.”** Without their service and sacrifice we would not have the freedoms we so easily take for granted. This program offers a way to bridge loneliness with care and compassion. Our Veterans can be blessed by the most precious gift possible – the sacrifice of your time. Your time is the most valuable contribution you can give.

**Volunteer Recruitment:** Why recruit? Volunteers fill the gaps between what is needed and what is wanted. Because hospitals and homes cover only the basic needs. Check out the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program Guide on the [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under Program – Hospital – Volunteer for information and tips on how to recruit.

**Volunteer Recognition and Support:** Support your volunteers by thanking them for their service and recognize their contributions! A simple thank you goes a long way but you can also print a Certificate of Appreciation from the [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under Program – Hospital – Volunteer Awards.

**Valentines for Veterans:** Share the Love! The week of February 14<sup>th</sup> (Valentine’s Day) is also National Salute to Veteran Patients week. We want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to our veterans staying in our VA and non-VA hospitals, clinics, adult day-care centers, hospice, community living centers, etc. Use this week to renew the spirit of hospital volunteerism. Pay tribute and express appreciation in a variety of ways, from ward visits, Valentines Day parties, distributing or sending Valentine’s cards. This week also provides an opportunity for you to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within a medical facility.

**Women Veterans Health Care:** Women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population. Learn about the resources and health care services that are now being tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Help our women veterans receive the benefits and services they deserve. Visit <http://www.womenhealth.va.gov> and learn more about what is available.

**Honors Escort Program:** A final farewell. It is an opportunity to honor each in a respectful and open manner and provides an opportunity for a veteran’s family and friends, other veterans,

and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high esteem and respect for the individual at the time of death.

**Creative and Unique Interaction:** Creative and unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals. (VA and non-VA facilities)

**Heroes' Heat & Chill Packs:** This year, the hospital special project is a rice pack, made with 100% cotton fabric, that can be either heated in the microwave or chilled in the freezer to provide additional therapy to our hospitalized veterans. They can be made in a variety of sizes and require simple stitching. Patterns and more information can be found on the [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under Program – Hospital.

## **NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARDS FOR VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

1. Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA facilities).
2. "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year" plaque awarded to one member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA facilities).
3. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year. (VA & non-VA facilities).

## **NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES**

1. Most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals. (VA & non-VA facilities)
  - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals. (VA & non-VA facilities)

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.

## **DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary in each Membership Division donating the most dollar amount spent on all Hospital Program related items and / or projects. (\$ amount will be totaled from the year-end report.)
2. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary in each Membership Division that has the most Hospital Volunteer hours. (Volunteer hours will be totaled from the year-end report.)
3. “Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year” plaque awarded to one member in the Department who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.
4. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year (VA & non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.
5. An award for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals. (VA & non-VA facilities) under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.

**ALL OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES ETC. TO NATIONAL AND DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS**