

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

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The Veterans and Family Support program is the foundation of our organization - demonstrating that **Every Day is Veterans Day**, and that our appreciation for their efforts to defend our freedoms extends **From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans**.

This year, the primary focus of our program will be:

- VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs
- Veterans' Mental Health Awareness
- Veteran and Veteran Spouses Employment

VFW-BASED VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE (NVS)

The NVS helps veterans, service members and their families access the benefits that they have earned – free of charge. NVS consists of a nationwide network of VFW-accredited Service Officers and Pre-Discharge Representatives who are experts in navigating VA processes.

PRE-DISCHARGE

The VFQ Pre-Discharge program was established in 2001. The program ensured separating and retiring military personnel receive assistance obtaining their VA entitlements upon discharge.

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claimsseparation-benefits>

MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP)

MAP helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units. A large part of MAP is the Adopt-A-Unit program, which VFW posts and Auxiliaries with the opportunity to support military units. Unfortunately, financial assistance is no longer offered to VFW Auxiliaries to support social events as part of this program. However, VFW Auxiliaries' are still able to request Foundation grants.

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support>

STUDENT VETERAN SUPPORT GRANT

The VFW's Student Veteran Support Grant is available for supporting specific student veteran events. VFW Posts or Departments are eligible to submit applications.

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veteranssupport>

VFW FOUNDATION GRANTS

There are three types of grants available to apply for:

- VFW #StillServing Grant, which offsets incurred for community service projects
- Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant, which is a matching grant available for community food or homeless relief efforts
- Post Assistance Grant, which is offered exclusively to VFW Posts to offset expenses for building repairs

<https://www.vfw.org/community/communityinitiatives/post-grants>

DISASTER RELIEF

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is accepting donations to help veterans, service members and military families impacted by natural disasters.

VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with a qualified responder. Please continue to look for the warning signs of suicide. Always promote that help is a call or text away at 988 (Press 1)! Other options include online chat or texting 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

VFW MENTAL WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

This campaign was developed to educate everyone about mental health and wellness and provide tools to intervene on behalf of veterans in crisis.

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>

WOMEN VETERANS SUPPORT

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary helped pass the Deborah Sampson Act that will enhance and improve VA programs and health services for women veterans and ensure they receive the care and support they need and have earned. It includes an expansion of the Women Veterans Call Center to include text messaging capability.

Women Veterans Call Center: Call or text: 855-829-6636 or 1-855-VA-WOMEN

Women Veterans Health Care: <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>

VETERAN AND VETERAN SPOUSES EMPLOYMENT

Consider working with local employers to host a job fair or job skills similar for your local veterans and their spouses. Sometimes a little assistance is needed to help our veterans and their families transition back into a civilian lifestyle.

PROGRAM DONATIONS

Donations for this program are always needed and very much appreciated. Donations can be made online or by mail.

Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select the program you would like to donate to and click "Contribute."

Donate by mail by sending a check to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Processing Center

P.O. Box 2002

Milford, NH 03055-2002

Please remember to earmark your check. Otherwise, your donation will be immediately directed to the VFW programs where your support is most urgently needed.

<https://vfw.org/donate/your-support-matters>

NATIONAL VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most outstanding activity or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community. To include veterans job fairs, unit homecomings, mental health-related stand downs, etc.
- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Veterans and Family Support – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT CITATIONS

1. A citation to the Auxiliary with the most outstanding activity or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community.
2. A citation to the Auxiliary who assisted the most veterans and service members.
3. A citation to the Auxiliary who donated the most money to assist veterans and service members.

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.