

Veterans & Family Support October 2018

The month of October shows our true colors as the landscape is changing not only for Mother Nature but also for all our members. The focus heading into the cooler season has some members not only inviting the military community to our Posts/Auxiliaries but also our neighborhood community in to help our veterans, active duty military and their family members. Chili Cook-Offs events are beginning, along with food can drives, coupon clipping parties, collection drives to help our food pantries/clothing rooms at the VA Hospitals and at our local community food banks/shelters. It is breath taking to see that we are still sending packages to our troops overseas and state side as we continue to take care of all military families.

We need to use the tools/resources available to us with the **VFW Military Assistance Program** that has provided support to more than 2 million service members and their families since 2005. Each VFW & VFW Auxiliary needs to review the two services to help achieve this relationship of partnering with both the **MAP grant** process and the **Adopt-A-Unit** program.

1. Military Assistance Program (MAP-grant)
 - Financial assistance for VFW Posts/Auxiliaries, Districts, Dept
 - Sponsor Events for active duty military units, National Guard & Reserves
 - MAP Grant must be submitted to VFW National Hdqtrs MAP Office
 - Deadline minimum 2 weeks prior to a sponsored event.

2. Adopt-A-Unit program
 - Pledge to support service members & families
 - Local military community out reach
 - Dinners/picnics, family days, holiday parties & funeral/memorial services
 - Moral & emotional support-before, during & after deployment
 - Purchase items/delivery of care packages.

We need to increase awareness in our auxiliaries of the MAP program.

Additional information concerning the MAP grant process, finding a military unit to adopt, Adopt-a-Unit applications, Adopt-A-Unity Activity Reports and FAQs can be found at <http://www.vfw.org/troopsupport/> or VFW National Headquarters at (816) 756-3390.

SWAP CORNER:

- **Auxiliary 5731** has been active cutting coupons, driving veterans to their doctor's appointment, and visiting veterans in assisted living homes and at VA hospitals.
- Special shout-out to **Auxiliary 1051** for coming together to pack and ship 5 care boxes filled with toiletries and snacks to troops in Afghanistan.
- **Auxiliary 3322** is hard at work providing food and commodities to families in need in the community. They have also been collecting quite a few beverage tabs for the Ronald McDonald House program and home away from home that helps families with seriously ill children in the hospital.

Veterans of Foreign Wars and Sport Clips Kick Off Annual Fundraising Drive for Veteran Scholarships

On **Monday Oct. 15**, **Sports Clips** will kick off its annual fundraising drive with a goal of raising 1.5 million by Veterans Day, when Sports Clips salons will donate \$1 from every hair service completed that day to benefit the "Help A Hero Scholarship" program. Get out to cut your hair at your local Sport Clips to help a veteran, now!

VFW relief efforts needed for those in the path of natural disasters, VFW's Disaster Relief Fund

We all continue to pray as a family in this organization for relief for those Posts/Auxiliaries hit hard this year from the natural disasters across this great nation of ours. Any donation to this fund can be counted as participation in the Veterans & Family Support Program. To donate to the **VFW Disaster Relief Fund**, please donate, send checks payable to **VFW**, earmarked "**Disaster Relief**" to VFW Quartermaster General 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.