

## Veterans & Family Support-November 2018

### Dear Members of the VFW, Auxiliary, Family & Friends,

We celebrated "Veterans Day" on November 11 with moments of silence, countless military ceremonies, joyous parades and family gatherings.

We send prayers and love to all of our friends and family affected by the wildfires racing across California and the devastating shooting in Thousand Oaks. Hearts are heavy and homes have been destroyed but the spirit of human kindness still prevails as we support and unite with one another to make it through these challenging times.

The VFW Auxiliary is here to help provide **resources** to our members in need. Each auxiliary has a relief fund set up to be utilized in disaster events like we are currently experiencing. Attached is the VFW Auxiliary Dpt. of CA Civil Disaster Claim Application which can also be found on our department website as well as a list of resources for veterans, active-duty military and their families. If you or your auxiliary wish to donate to this cause please send a check to the VFW Auxiliary Department of California, earmarked Emergency Fund.

The **VFW Unmet Needs program provides grants up to \$1,500 (not loans)** to active duty service members, veterans and their immediate families to assist with basic life needs. The applicant must be a service member, veteran or eligible dependent and the financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

- Individual is currently on active duty and the hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- Individual was discharged on or after September 11, 2001 and the hardship is a direct result of military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.
- Individual was discharged prior to September 11, 2001, is on a fixed income that includes VA compensation, SSI and/or SSDI and is facing a unexpected/emergency financial hardship.

Unmet Needs Program 406 W. 34 Street Kansas City, MO 64111

Toll Free Number: 866-789-6333, FAX Number: 816-968-2779

Email Address: [unmetneeds@vfw.org](mailto:unmetneeds@vfw.org), Website: [www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants)

**Applications for Unmet Needs Grants** can be found online at [www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants) by clicking the Unmet Needs online application. Applications cannot be completed unless all required fields are completed and all documents are provided. After the application is submitted a notification email will be sent.

The **VFW Disaster Relief Fund provides a \$300 grant to assist those who are impacted by recent natural disasters**. The **application for this grant** can be found online at <http://www.vfw.org/unmetneeds> by looking to the right of the web page under Unmet Needs Resources for the Disaster Relief Assistance link. The VFW Disaster Relief Fund is in need of donations. Donations can be made in two ways:

- By check **payable to VFW**, earmarked "**Disaster Relief**" and mailed to Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Attn: Quartermaster General 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
- Online <https://www.vfw.org/ways-to-help> and select "**Disaster Relief**."

### **SWAP CORNER**

- VFW Auxiliary 2323, 2805, 10049/7-VA WLA VFW Picnic & VA Sepulveda Veterans Day Luncheon members gave out 250 Virtual Pins from our Operation Uplink program, passed out 250 Resource Rack Cards, 50 Thank You Coins, \$200 chit canteen booklets and \$500 gift cards/door prizes.
- VFW Auxiliary District 1 –Veterans & Family Support Chairman Nancy has worked with her auxiliaries to give out over 80 "Thank You Coins" to our Veterans
- We have Dist 15 members that have lost EVERYTHING! Tammy Phifer, "Lucky to have escaped, Our post 1770-Willows (some members) spent the whole day yesterday going through parking lots to see where we could help. So many lost people still."
- VFW Auxiliary District 4-Family Freedom Festival on Veterans Day, Department Legislative Chairman Maddie Cunningham-Colston spoke about the 2018 VFW Priority Goals with the 43<sup>rd</sup> District Congresswomen, Maxine Waters during this event.

We have a lot to be thankful for this '**Thanksgiving**' as we reflect back on a very trying year but we will keep moving forward together in the spirit of love and support. Say a prayer for our VFW family and all of active military serving abroad this holiday season, may we be grateful for the many blessing in our lives.