

**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT**  
**CHAIRMAN: MARY ANNE KREUTZ**  
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### **PROGRAM GOALS**

- **VFW National Veterans Service**
- **VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs**
- **Assisting Veterans, Military and Their Families**

We need to open our doors to our communities to promote the VFW National Veterans Service Programs, not only to continue to update our members but also to those veterans unaware of the programs available to them. We need to educate those who want to know how to navigate the course to apply for the VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs services. We will continue to reach out to go that extra mile to help veterans, active military and their family members.

North, East, South or West just point a member in the direction where help is needed, big or small, down the road or across the hall, we are here to help! The Department President Ellie Mello's theme is, "**360 Degrees for Our Veterans & their Families**", with her symbol of the "**Compass**" is perfect to help point our veterans in the right direction for program services. The National President Sandi Kriebel's theme is "**Believe-We Can Do It**", with her iconic symbol of "**Rosie the Riveter**" has all of us flexing our arms to show the strength of our organization.

### **VFW National Veterans Service**

The VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) help veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve-at no cost. NVS provides a nationwide of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Those VFW Service Officers recover more than \$1 billion annually in VA benefits for veterans and their dependents. These highly skilled professionals assist all veterans, weather they are VFW Members or not, in filling claims for:

- \* Disability Compensation programs
- \* Pension and death pension
- \* Rehabilitation and education
- \* Employment and training programs

National Veterans Service also works to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA Health care including:

- \* Hospital Care
- \* Outpatient Care
- \* Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service, exposure to Agent Orange, radiation or other environmental hazards.
- \* Specialized health care for female veterans
- \* Alcohol and drug dependency treatment

Donations to NVS can be made online at [www.vfw.org/way-to-help](http://www.vfw.org/way-to-help), select National Veterans Service, and click "**Contribute**". Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for NVS. Mail check to:

VFW National Headquarters-Attn: NVS  
406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs**  
***(Previously Known as VFW National Military Services)***

Veterans and Military Support contains four programs initiated by the VFW:

- \* ***Military Assistance Program (MAP)***
- \* ***Unmet Needs***
- \* ***VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship***
- \* ***Operation Uplink.***

These programs serve active-duty and recently discharged military. If you need additional information than what is provided in this book, just click on the [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and steer a course to obtain additional resources. Donations can be made online at [www.vfw.org/ways-to-help](http://www.vfw.org/ways-to-help), select **Veterans and Military Support**, click "**Contribute.**" Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for Veterans and Military Support. Mail check to:

VFW National Headquarters  
Attn: Veterans and Military Support  
406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**\* Military Assistance Program (MAP) \***

The **Military Assistance Program** helps provide financial assistance to VFW Post and Auxiliaries to sponsor troop send-offs, homecomings and get-

together. Post and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-A-Unit and Family Readiness Groups can also receive assistance. **MAP** keeps care packages circulating by covering postage cost. The VFW has updated the enclosed forms for the MAP Grant Guidelines, the FAQ, the Application, the Instruction & the Grant Report as of January 8, 2018. If you have any additional questions to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW NMS office 1/816/756-3390.

**\* Unmet Needs Can Help in a Crisis \***

**Unmet Needs** provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active duty service members, veterans and their immediate families to assist with basic life needs. For example, if a soldier is serving on foreign soil, but the rent is due back home or if the family car needs a new radiator at a cost the family cannot afford and needs help. The **Unmet Needs Eligibility Criteria** sheet, along with the **Unmet Needs Program FAQ** is here in the book with information of how to apply.

Grants of up to \$1,500 payable to a creditor can bridge the gap to make a mortgage or rent payment or to fund home and auto repairs, insurance, and utility costs, food and clothing. To learn more, visit [www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants) to apply online.

**\* VFW "Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" Program \***

The **VFW and Sport Clips** are giving the gift of scholarships to our nation's heroes as a way of thanking them for their dedicated service to our nation. The VFW "**Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship**" awards scholarships of up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans and service members to help them complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. Support those who support us and visit your local Sports Clips today! To learn more, visit [www.vfw.org/student-veterans-support](http://www.vfw.org/student-veterans-support).

**\* Operation Uplink \***

**Operation Uplink** is much appreciated by active-duty military and their spouses and children - a welcome way to stay connected. Now they have **Virtual Pins** instead of a physical card to stay in touch with their loved ones. Plenty of virtual PIN's for free call time are also still available for distributions for the VFW. Request them for hospitalized veterans to give them another way to talk to family and friends. The enclosed form for **Virtual PIN** request has been updated. Contact information for **Operation Uplink**, by email [UPLINK@VFW.ORG](mailto:UPLINK@VFW.ORG) or call 1(816) 968-1155.

**RESOURCES TO PROMOTE THIS PROGRAM**

The Veterans & Family Support **Resource Rack Card** is a very valuable tool to use when promoting this program. This one tool provides veterans, active-duty military and their families a list of 20 organizations and agencies

that offer them support and assistance when needed. Placing this information in the hands of our nation's heroes provides them with a place to go when help is needed. The tool can be downloaded from the website at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources), and copied so that it can be distributed, placed in locations of information in your community or posted where it can be seen and used by others.

There are VFW Auxiliary ***Thank You Coins*** available for purchase from the VFW Store at [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) or by calling 1/800/821-2606. These coins could be presented to veterans and/or active military to thank them for their service. Give these coins to our veterans as an act of honor and is appreciated by those who receive them. The **Resource Pack** that has 20 organizations and agencies that offer them support and assistance when needed.

### ***THREE WAYS TO PROMOTE THIS PROGRAM AT A FAMILY FREEDOM FESTIVAL***

1. Provide information about VFW **National Veterans Service** (NVS).
2. Provide information about VFW's Veterans and Military Support Programs (**Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship,"** and Operation Uplink.)
3. Hand out the **Resource Rack Card**.

### **VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

- ***Certificate*** to the **Auxiliary** with the **Best Promotion of VFW National Veterans Services**.
- ***Certificate*** to the **District** Chairman in each Membership Group with the **Best Promotion of VFW National Veterans Services**.
- Based on the National Program Goals a ***Certificate*** to one Auxiliary in each membership division for Outstanding Performance in the following: National Veterans Services & National Military Services

#### **Department Legacy Awards**

##### ***National Veterans Service***

PDP Judy Jones

##### ***Adopt A Unit***

PDP Emma T. Lopez

##### ***Operation Uplink***

PDP Sherl Ann Daverio

##### ***Unmet Needs***

PDP Phyllis White

##### ***National Military Services***

PDP Gwendolyn Rankin

***Military Assistance***

PDP Stephanie Martin

***Veterans and Military Support***

PDP Reta Butler

***California VFW Service***

PDP Sue Wells

## **VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT-NATIONAL AWARDS**

### **Awards For Auxiliaries:**

1. Citation to one Auxiliary in each Department with best project that supports and/or serves a veteran and his/her family.
2. Citation to one Auxiliary in each Department that distributes the most VFW Auxiliary "Thank You" Coins.
3. Citation to one Auxiliary in each Department that distributes the most VFW Auxiliary Resource Rack Cards.