

**Veterans & Family Support Program
January 2023 Promotion
Council of Administration Report**

I have three items I want to bring to your attention:

- 1) The Suicide Awareness telephone number has been changed to **988**-press **1**. The old 800 number will switch anyone calling to the new number. It was decided that having a three-digit number similar to the 911 emergency number will be easier to remember. Please make sure members know of this change. Calls at this time to the old number will be transferred to the new 988 number.
- 2) I have distributed three different pages of information for the PACT ACT:
 - 2022 PACT ACT: Understanding Health Care Eligibility and Benefits
 - PACT ACT & Gulf, Post-9/11 Era Veterans
 - PACT ACT: Vietnam Era Veterans, Cold War Era Veterans

Please give this information to your Posts and Veterans whether they are VFW Members or not. Also remind them if they have previously filed a claim and been denied, they should refile as the eligibility requirements have changed. You can also go to VA.gov/PACT for this information. Remind them to make sure they use a VFW-qualified VSO Officer or other VFW-qualified person to file their claims. There are many firms/businesses that are advertising to file for veterans and they will charge the veteran or whoever is filing the claim.

- 3) Yes, it's on REPORTING! Please remind your VFS Chairmen or anyone filing a report to 'LOOK At What Is Reportable' in the guidelines in the Department Program Book. I gave all District Presidents that information at the beginning of the 2022-2023 year! I am still getting reports on things that are not reportable. Make sure your Chairmen have the list. I recently got a call from an Auxiliary member asking what is reportable and how to report not using a computer as they don't have or use one. I sent her the information by USPS mail. So beware, whether we like it or not, there are some members who do not use computers. We want everyone who does the "REPORTABLE" work to get credit for what they do, so be prepared to help those who do not have electronic connectivity.

We are "Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care" because we are the "VFW Auxiliary Family One Team, One Heartbeat."

Yours In Friendship,
Carol Steinhauer
VFS Chairman-2022-2023
csteinhaue@aol.com 310/675-7681