Veterans and Family Support

December 2023 Promotion

Department of California
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Veterans are our Number 1 priority!

The Veterans and Family Support program :

- **Promotes support for veterans, service members and their families.**
- **Promotes Veteran and Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention**
- **Promotes VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS)**
- **Promotes VFW's Veterans & Military Support Programs (Sports Clips, Unmet Needs)**

Wishing you all a **happy**, healthy **holiday** season and some well-deserved rest and relaxation! Thank you for your daily dedication in our mission to serve our Veterans.

How can YOU help our Veterans at Christmas?

Reach out to veterans you know by sending a card, calling, or inviting them for a meal. Suggest that your Auxiliary do card-writing campaigns, adopt-a-military-family , or host food drives.
Specifically for Veterans, the holidays can enhance difficulties adjusting to civilian life, exacerbate posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms, put a focus on certain dates or anniversaries, and induce guilt.

Please remember, we are focusing on Suicide Awareness and Mental Health of our veterans. If you need help this month or any time of the year, the Veterans Crisis Line is here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

Contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, dial 988, then press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255

DATES TO REMEMBER:

DECEMBER 7 – PEARL HARBOR DAY- National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** or **Pearl Harbor Day**, is observed annually in the United States on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which led to the United States declaring war on Japan the next day and thus entering WW II.

DECEMBER 13 – NATIONAL GUARD B DAY

DECEMBER 16 – WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA- This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,000 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

DECEMBER 20 – SPACE FORCE B DAY

A huge THANK YOU to those Auxiliaries who are doing a great job of supporting all our Veterans and Family Support programs such as National Veterans Service (NVS), Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, VFW "Sports Clips" Help a Hero Scholarship program, Our Women Veterans, and Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness!

Information on each of these programs can be found on the national website VFWAuxiliary.org, click on "What we do," scroll down to Veterans and Family Support. Here you will find some great ideas, as well as some Auxiliary National Website Resources

Crown Royal Purple Bag Care packages for our Troops project

It's called — what else — The Purple Bag Project, and the company is asking people to pack a bag online for free. So far, they've packed more than one million bags. The distiller has partnered with Packages From Home to send care packages to military members who are serving around the world. All you have to do is visit **pack.crownroyal.com** , enter your age to make sure you're 21 years old or older and complete your order.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans. Please remember if you need anything or have a question you can always reach out to me.

As we are Banding Together for Our Veterans, let us remember and do all we can to help each one of our veterans, especially in their time of need.

This Christmas may your blessings be many, your worries few, and days spent with those who mean the most to you.

Happiest of the holiday season to each one of you! I look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Loyally,

Diana