

# A Veterans and Family Support Program

April 2024

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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)



**April is the Month of the Military Child!** As part of the veterans and Family Support Program, we can focus on reaching out and supporting our military children. The Defense Department celebrates military children during the month of April. There are more than **1.6 million military children** who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service. To show our support for military-connected youth, I invite you to "Purple Up!" on April 17. Why purple? Purple symbolizes all branches of the military as a combination of Army green, Marine Corps red, and Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force and Space Force blue.

Show your appreciation for the service of all children from military families and celebrate them by wearing a purple ribbon in an effort to say, "Thank You!" Whether or not you know any military-connected youth, please take a moment to recognize and honor them by wearing purple on April 17. (See attachment for other ideas)



**Deadline is Fast Approaching!!!**

**VFW "Sport Clips® Help a Hero Scholarship."** This scholarship helps service members and veterans complete their higher education without incurring excessive student load debt. It's a great way to assist those who fought for our freedoms. Scholarships of up to \$5,000 are available. Applications are currently being accepted until **April 30** for the Fall 2024 semester. You can find the application and more information by visiting [www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support).

Eligible Applicants Must:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve.
- Have completed Basic Training and follow-on training (Advanced Individual Training, technical school, etc.).
- Separated with or currently hold a military rank of E-5 or below.
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance.
- Participate in, be accepted to, or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution.

### **Reporting-**

Last Day of reporting is April 15<sup>th</sup>! Please have all reports submitted by this date.

### **April Dates to Remember -**

- Month of the Military Child April
- Gold Star Wives Day April 9-
- National Former POW Recognition Day April 14-
- Air Force Reserve Birthday April 23- Army Reserve Birthday

### **Looking Ahead Dates for May**

May 1, 2024 – Silver Star Banner Day – Per Congressional resolution, it is an “Official Day to honor wounded, ill, and injured Veterans.”

May 10, 2024 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day – This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.

May 18, 2024 – Armed Forces Day – Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day – A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military.

Thank you for all that you do to support our Veterans and their families!