

November 2023

## Veterans and Family Support Program

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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 (Sport Clips, Unmet Needs)



November - the month for giving "Thanks", gratitude, and appreciation! November is the month we thank our Military Families by recognizing Military Family Appreciation month, it's the month we offer many thanks to our Veterans on Veteran's Day and of course Thanksgiving, where we offer gratitude for our freedom and rights. I want to take a moment to **THANK YOU** for everything you are doing for our Veterans and their families!

Participating [Sport Clips Haircuts](#) locations will donate \$2 from every hair care service provided on Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, to support the Sport Clips Help a Hero" program. The goal is to raise \$1.7 million for the scholarships, which are awarded to qualified veterans across all branches by sending the funds directly to the college or technical school of their choice.



Many Sport Clips locations will also [offer free Veterans Day haircuts](#) for veterans and active-duty service members.



While support for our veterans and deployed troops are important, it's also important to remember those who have been left behind – their spouses and children. ***November is Military Family Appreciation Month*** and was first recognized in 1996 after the Armed Services YMCA along with the U.S. Government expanded Military Family Week. Each year, the President declares the month through a signed proclamation. Here are a few ideas of things that can be done in observance for Military Family Appreciation month:

- **Adopt a military family for the holidays.**
- **Offer to run errands for military spouses who may have their hands full with their children or even their pets.**
- **Volunteer or donate services to military organizations.**
- **Read about upcoming legislation and learn how it impacts our military, Veterans, and their families. Then write and call your legislators.**

**Veterans Day** honors ALL veterans, both dead and living. It's a day to honor all who have served in the military and a great opportunity to say **"thank you"** to all our veterans and their families. It is a day to show our **appreciation** to those in our community that are willing to stand up and fight for our country, our freedoms, and our beliefs. As an Auxiliary you can participate in parades, school programs and/or host free meals for veterans at their Post.

**Unmet Needs** is here to help America's active-duty service members (to include activated Guard/Reserve members) and their families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties because of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The program provides financial assistance up to \$2,500 to assist daily necessities in the form of a grant – not a loan – so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, we pay the creditor(s) directly.

## **BURGER KING/VFW UNMET NEEDS FUNDRAISER**

While all participating Burger King® franchisees will conduct their Unmet Needs fundraising in the month of May beginning in 2024, several have opted to also raise funds in November.

For those members who would like to chip in and support the VFW's Unmet Needs program that helps service members facing financial challenges, look for participating restaurants next month .

Burger King® franchisees are proud supporters of the VFW Unmet Needs program. Support those who support us and visit your local participating "BK" today!



## **Additional Dates / Events to recognize our Veterans and their Families in November:**

- **Warrior Care Month** -was established in 2008 , Each branch of service has a program for our heroes. We can honor them by providing cards or supplies needed for therapy. Sometimes just being there is all that is needed.
- **National Family Caregivers Month**- Although May honors our military caregivers, it is very important to recognize all caregivers. Do you have a visiting nurse that helps each week with essentials? Do your children call to see how you are doing? Thank them for not only caring for our Veteran, but for us as well.
- **National Veterans Small Business Week** is November 1 – 5. How many small businesses do you know that are owned by Veterans? Show your support by frequenting their establishment or sending a thank you card for their support to the community.
- **November 10th Marine Corp Birthday**- Happy Birthday Marines!
- **November 11th Veterans Day**- I can't wait to hear how our Auxiliary members celebrated our Veterans this year.
- **November 24th Thanksgiving** - As you rush around getting ready for the holidays, take a breath to talk to your local school or city hall to see if there is a family in need. Although there are specific days, a week, or a month that are specifically set to honor our Veterans and their families, we should remember them every day with simple gestures. A phone call, sending a card, or writing to our legislators are just a few ways we can show that we care.

### **Awards-**

Please refer to the National Program book for information regarding applying for National Awards



Loyally, Diana Kulhanek