

## Veterans and Family Support Program

February 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)



### Valentine's for Our Veterans

**February and Valentine's Day** offers the opportunity to reach out to our communities and encourage them to show acts of kindness to our Veterans! One way your Auxiliary can increase awareness and support for our Veterans, service members and their families is by hosting a community wide 'Valentine's for Veterans'. This is not a new concept but it is one we can do to be intentional in creating awareness.

This is an opportunity to partner with other programs, like Hospital, Membership, Historian/Media Relations , Youth and Scholarships. You can post a date for a drop off time for community members to bring their homemade Valentine's to your post home, host an opportunity for the community to come to your Post home to create Valentine's or even partner with your local school to get the children involved in creating cards. You can then deliver Valentine's to Veterans in your communities, send them to active duty service members, or give some to your local VA . I have provided a Valentine's Day Card template which I presented at the C of A in January that you can use which is specifically for Veterans.

### National Awards

If you haven't had the time to look at the National Awards for Auxiliaries, they are as follows:

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members, and their families.
  - Citations to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members, and their families.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members, and their families.

2. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

- Citations to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members, and their families.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the (4) Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

You must submit the form found at [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org) under Veterans and Family Support to me by March 31, 2024! Please do not wait until the last minute. You all have done such great work this year and I hope to receive many of these award forms!

Dates to Remember:

- **Feb 3- Four Chaplains Day** - Feb. 3 will mark the 71st anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester and the legendary acts of selflessness of four Army chaplains who were aboard. Four Chaplains Day, as Congress has declared the date, honors the four chaplains who went down with their ship, as they gave their life jackets to other passengers.
- **Feb 11-17 National Salute to Veteran Patients Week-** **Honor** the brave men and women on National Salute to Veteran Patients Day - thanking them for their service and sacrifice for our freedom.
- **Feb 14- Valentine's Day** - also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**,<sup>[1]</sup> is celebrated annually on February 14.<sup>[2]</sup> It originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine.
- **Feb 19- Coast Guard Reserve Birthday** -The **Coast Guard Reserve** offers citizens the opportunity to serve on a part-time basis, while still serving their country and community.

Please continue doing the great work that you are doing and remember to submit your reports!