

Veterans and Family Support Program

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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 (Sport Clips, Unmet Needs)**

"I'll never understand why everybody puts so much emphasis on January 1st. There are 364 other days in the year that you can make a change." —Elizabeth Eulberg

Ways to help make a "Change" for our Veterans-

- Share **the Veterans and Family Support Resource** Card that includes a list of 20 organizations and agencies that offer support to veterans, service members and their families.
- Promote **Veteran and Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention**
Each day, an estimated 20 veterans commit suicide. You can help lower this number and make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis by wearing a "teardrop" sticker to bring awareness to this situation.
- Help advertise the **Veterans Crisis Line** that connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1
- Promote the **VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS)**- helps veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve – **free of charge.**

- Promote the **VFW's Veterans & Military Support Programs** : **VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"** provides service members and veterans with scholarships of up to \$5,000
- **Unmet Needs** is there to help America's service members who have run into unexpected financial difficulties. The program provides financial aid of up to \$1,500 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant – not a loan – so no repayment is required.
- The **Military Assistance Program** helps provide financial assistance to VFW Post and Auxiliaries to sponsor troop send-offs, homecomings and get-togethers. Posts and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-A-Unit and Family Readiness Groups can also receive assistance.

The beginning of the New Year is a fun time to look ahead at important military holiday dates in the upcoming months. There are many dates and observances set aside specifically to recognize military members and their families throughout the year.

While all of us believe in honoring Veterans and Servicemembers every day, I have compiled a list of significant military dates to mark on your calendar for 2024:

- **Feb. 3, 2024 – Four Chaplains Day** – A Day to remember the four U.S. Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice when the USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.
- **Feb. 19, 2024 – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday**
- **March 3, 2024 – Navy Reserve Birthday**
- **March 13, 2024, K-9 Veterans Day** – The date is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps and a day to honor their service.
- **March 25, 2024, Medal of Honor Day** – A holiday to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States.
- **March 29, 2024– Vietnam Veterans Day** – A national holiday to recognize and honor Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War
- **April 5, 2024 – Gold Star Spouses Day** – A Day dedicated to those whose spouses gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military or as a result of service-connected injuries or illness.
- **April 14, 2024 – Air Force Reserve Birthday**
- **April 23, 2024 – Army Reserve Birthday**

- **May 1, 2024 – Silver Star Banner Day** – Per Congressional resolution, it is an “Official Day to honor wounded, ill, and injured Veterans”.
- **May 12, 2024 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day** – This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.
- **May 13, 2024 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day** – A Day to honor the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom.
- **May 20, 2024 – Armed Forces Day** Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to those currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **May 29, 2024 – Memorial Day** A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military.
- **June 6, 2024– Anniversary of the World War II Allied invasion in Normandy, France, now known as D-Day.**
- **June 14, 2024 – Flag Day** – A Day to celebrate the adoption of the U.S. flag.
- **June 14, 2024 – Army Birthday**
- **June 23, 2024 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday**

Significant Military Months

- April – Month of the Military Child
- May – National Military Appreciation Month
- May – Month of the Military Caregiver

There is a wide range of opportunities to assist our nation's heroes. Volunteer to transport veterans to and from their VA medical appointments, help at a VA facility or assist veterans in your local community. No matter who you are, or what your level of experience, you can stand by our nation's veterans.



Dog Tags 4 Life

At Dog Tags 4 Life, their mission is to spread the word about the Veterans Crisis Line (*Dial 988, then press 1*) using dog tags containing the information. We want these in the hands of as many Veterans as possible, so the information is at their fingertips if/when they ever need it. To order visit [Dog Tags 4 Life](#)

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans!

Be sure to report on the clever work that you are doing!

I'm so proud of everything your Auxiliaries accomplished this year and can't wait to see what you do in 2024!



Happy New Year! Diana