

# Veterans and Family Support

March 2024

Department of California

Diana Kulhanek

VFS Program [dirude@yahoo.com](mailto:dirude@yahoo.com)



## **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)**

“March is the time of plans and projects.”

Please “Plan” to report the Projects that your Auxiliary accomplished this year!

## **Reporting**

We are in the final stretch of the 2023-2024 year. Have we met our goals?

How many can you check off?



- Did your Auxiliary utilize the Veterans & Family Support material/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary website?
- Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, hosted/co-hosted with your VFW Post activities for any of these programs: Disaster Relief, Military Assistance (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), Unmet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness?
- Did your Auxiliary provide direct aid to veterans, service members, and/or their families (i.e., meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.)?
- Did your auxiliary sponsor/participated in events or projects for Homeless Veterans. (Stand Downs, clothing drives, food drives. etc.)?
- Did your auxiliary report the number of veterans, service members and/or their families assisted. (Report each time you assist)
- Did your Auxiliary promote veteran and military suicide prevention and mental health awareness information?
- Did your Auxiliary provide support to veterans and their care givers?

### **National Year End report-**

National needs numbers! All District Presidents or District Chairpersons need to submit a Year End Report for the Veterans and Family Support Program. Please refer to the National Year End Reporting found in our Department Program Book on page 111. Please send me these numbers by March 31!

Spring is just around the corner! Our reporting year is almost over. Each auxiliary has amazed me with all that you are doing to support our Veterans and their families. Please continue to work on the programs and I am certain that every auxiliary will report. Speaking of reports, you must submit your End of Year Reports to your District President no later than March 31, 2024. District Presidents please forward this information to me.



## Fun ideas for March-

- ❖ March 6 is National Oreo Day- you can give small packs of Oreo cookies to our Veterans with a note of Thanks- for their service.
- ❖ March 14- Pi Day – how about handing out slices of pie to our Vet’s and thanking them for their service!
- ❖ March 17- St Patrick’s Day- Everyone is Irish on this Day! Perhaps you can have a traditional Irish dinner at your Post and offer a free meal of thanks to our Veterans.



## March Dates to Remember

- March 3rd Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 13th K-9 Veterans Day
- March 25th Medal of Honor Day
- March 29th Viet Nam Veterans Day

March Challenge- **Stop Soldier Suicide** has put out a Facebook Challenge-

I'm walking 1 mile a day with my dog  
this March to support the fight  
against military suicide. Join the  
challenge with me!

Show your support, sign up with [StopsoldierSuicide.org](https://StopsoldierSuicide.org).

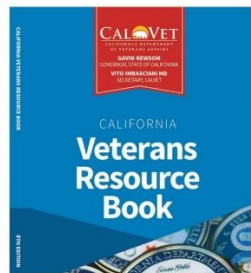
## National Citations

If you are applying for a National Citation, please send it to me by March 31st. There are 2 National Citations that your Auxiliary can apply for:

Citation #1 is for every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health. One Auxiliary for each of the four conferences will win the Citation and \$25.

Citation# 2 is for every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that increases support of veteran, active-duty military, and their families. Again, one Auxiliary from each of the four conferences will win the citation and \$25.

You can find the necessary forms on-line in MALTA under the VFS Program.



## The California Veterans Resource Book

Did you know that you can order the **California Veterans Resource Book** for FREE!

This book assists you in learning about and accessing the wide variety of services and benefits available to California veterans and family members. The California **Veterans Resource Book** provides a comprehensive guide for Veterans' earned benefits. I encourage your Auxiliary to have some of these books available for Veterans in your community. You could offer them to Veterans when you have informational tables or Membership tables set up at Community events. You can view and print a copy on line or for more information please visit:

[www.CALVET.CA.GOV](http://www.CALVET.CA.GOV)