

Veterans and Family Support

March 2025 Promotion

The reporting year is rapidly drawing to a close. So here are a few friendly reminders:

- Only reports submitted by April 15th will be considered for this reporting year. Any reports after that date will fall into next year's reporting.
- If you have submitted a report for the VFS program and don't see it reflected on the dashboard yet, please check your email inbox and junk mail folders for any questions or other notifications such as redirects.
- If you want to apply for a National Citation and award for the VFS program you need to submit your entry form to me HelenSteinberg@comcast.net by March 31, 2025 for judging. The form is attached at the end of this promotion for your convenience.

While the cut off for this year's reporting is drawing near, that doesn't mean the work is stopping.....

Next month is the Month of the Military Child sponsored by the Department of Defense. The purpose is to recognize the sacrifices of military children and their families, to build college and career readiness for students and to challenge students to excel academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

The official flower of the military child is the dandelion because, like dandelions, Military children can take root and flourish practically anywhere the wind blows them.

Here are some ways you can celebrate/raise awareness/help....

- 1) You can show your support for Military Children by wearing purple on Purple Up! Day on April 15th or any day in April. Why Purple? Purple is the combination of all the colors (blue, green and red) of the US Armed Forces.
- 2) Hold a breakfast/lunch or similar event for military children and their families.
- 3) Hold a crafting event or similar for local military children.
- 4) Learn about the issues military children face.
- 5) Adopt a family of a deployed military member.
- 6) Hold a food drive for military families.
- 7) Ask your local schools if they have any events planned that you can help with.
- 8) Offer to be a mentor or a tutor for a student.
- 9) Use Hashtags when posting pictures of related events #MOMC, #MonthoftheMilitaryChild, #PurpleUp.

10) Share facts about military-connected children to raise awareness.



Did you know that, as of 2024:

1. There are more than 1.6 million military children
 - a. 0-5 years old: 399,176 active duty, 204,405 reserve
 - b. 6-11 years old: 312,460 active duty, 211,136 reserves
 - c. 12-18 years old: 214,049 active duty, 177.166 reserve
 - d. 19-22 years old: 38,800 active duty, 64,281 reserves
2. 80% of military children in the K-12 age range attend public schools
3. Since 2001, more than 2 million American children have had a parent deployed at least once
4. Military families move every two to three years on average
5. Military children change schools an average of six to nine times from the start of kindergarten to their high school graduation.
6. Military children are twice as likely to join the military when they become adults





Veterans & Family Support National Program Awards 2024-2025 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the
Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by
March 31, 2025 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event that increased awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador Evan Smiley by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.