

## Veterans and Family Support

### January 2025 Promotion

At the time of writing this promotion, the first news reports are coming in of the horrific fires raging in Southern California. My thoughts and prayers are with our comrades, their families and other community members who may at this time be evacuating or worse, have already lost their homes.

It makes me think of how we as Auxiliaries can help.

- We can contribute to the Department's Emergency/Assistance/Disaster Fund. The monies donated to this fund are used to help our sisters and brothers in California Auxiliaries when they are impacted by floods, fires or other catastrophes. If you are in need of assistance, the Grant Application form can be found under the members only section of the Department's website.
- We can do welfare checks on members who live in the impacted areas and reach out to see if any help can be provided. They may need help with clothing, temporary accommodation or even providing for family pets.
- We can donate money or goods to any VFW Posts/Auxiliaries or local groups that organize drives to assist those who may be unhoused or in need. We can also make ourselves available to help those groups in their efforts.

I am certain that you can come up with many other ways to help and I look forward to hearing about What your Auxiliaries do in your reports.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just before the holidays I was privileged to be able to meet with some Student Veterans from a local college. As a group they were keen to become involved with VFW activities and many were eligible to join either the VFW Posts or the Auxiliary. It was great to be around such enthusiasm and energy! I look forward to working with them in the future and hopefully welcoming them in to our VFW/Auxiliary family.

Many student veterans are trying to juggle family needs, work and study and have limited incomes. If you get the opportunity here are some ways you might be able to help

- Tell them about the financial assistance they can get from the VFW (more info can be found at <https://www.vfw.org/asssitance/student-veterans-support>)
  - The Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship, up to \$5,000 is available to any service member or veteran to help them complete their educational goals.
- Host an outreach event designed to assist and support veterans currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning that aren't affiliated with a Student Veterans of America (SVA).

You can apply for a VFW Student Veteran Support Grant of up to \$500 to do that. (more info can be found at <https://www.vfw.org/asssitance/student-veterans-support>)

- Share information about the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship which grants exemplary students the chance to join the VFW Legislative team on Capitol Hill during the VFW Legislative Conference in early Spring ((more info can be found at <https://www.vfw.org/asssitance/student-veterans-support>)
- Your Auxiliary could help sponsor a local member of the SVA to attend the SVA National Conference each year
- Your Post/Auxiliary might be able to provide meeting or event space for Student's to host events of their own
- You can
  - provide food or diapers for distribution at your local Student Veterans Resource center.
  - You can share information with the students about what benefits they may be entitled to and how to go about getting help and resources.
  - You can invite the students to participate in your activities and events and make them feel a part of our family.

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally, as a reminder, the date to submit your application for the Veterans and Family Support Award for 2024-5 is fast approaching.

This year the award of a citation and \$25 will be given to one auxiliary in each of the 10 program divisions, for the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families.

The entry form for this award is below and your completed entry should be sent to me ([HelenSteinberg@comcast.net](mailto:HelenSteinberg@comcast.net)) by March 31, 2025 for judging.



# 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.*