

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

Americanism Chair and Patriotic Instructor October 2023 Report

Greetings brothers and sisters of the Department of Wisconsin. It is my pleasure to share information from our National Americanism Ambassador Linda. This month features #AuxTRIBE. Upon returning home, comrades may feel the void of lost camaraderie, feeling adrift without a mission. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is one condition service members can experience.



#AuxTRIBE:

While other nations were formed around tribal bonds, America is a unique conglomeration of people and experiences. The place where this mindset works best and may serve as an example to our nation is the military. Many individuals enter the service, go through bootcamp, and emerge as ONE high functioning force...one **TRIBE** unified in a brotherhood stronger than most familial ties. Most of our forefathers and -mothers chose to come to America to form a new way of life side by side with strangers bearing little or no resemblance to themselves. They declared themselves Americans by **AGREEING** to be!

VFWA Patriotic Instructors, your job does not end after the reading at the beginning of your meeting. *Patriotic VFWA members*, your role does not end after your meeting closes. Rather, it is the obligation of ALL of us to teach the unifying traditions that create *our #AuxTRIBE* and foster an environment more accommodating to our VFW comrades... to help them soften the effects of their **PTS(D)**:

- **Post**
- **Tribal**
- **Separation**
- **(Dysphoria)**

Seeing the unity of our Auxiliary, watching us carry out our traditions in how we function with our rituals, and being around us while we are “wearing our gear” in uniform or other patriotic attire, subconsciously reminds them of the unity, elevated status, and common mission that their military experiences and the wearing of their uniforms *made them feel*. In a word, we can be for them the **TRIBE** they are looking for. With us they will *be “home.”*

Join me in bringing awareness to the issue of Veteran Suicide and observe **#22aday**:

Every 22nd of the month wear blue and do a **#BuddyCheck** (Take a pic and hashtag it **#AuxTRIBE** and **#22aday**; please text or email me that pic.)

My thanks for all you do for our VETERANS and to promote AMERICANISM!

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