

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
Veterans & Family Support
July 2023

Veterans & Family Support is the heart of our organization and a program that every member can and should participate in. Our veterans sacrificed so much for us and it's time that we do all we can for them.

As Tessa Butcher, our National Ambassador states, "We are all musicians in a great human orchestra." Not any one of us can be a solo act. We must work together for the common good. What is that?? That is our Veteran and the family that supports them, both in and out of their military service.

National President Carla Martinez' theme of "**Banding Together for Our Veterans**" will offer guidance for support programs, VA Benefits, higher education opportunities, Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention.

The Military Assistance Program or MAP, Unmet Needs & VFW "SportClips Help a Hero Scholarship" are part of Veterans & Military Support.

MAP helps local VFW & Auxiliary members forge & Nurture bonds with local military units by providing financial assistance to sponsor morale-boosting send-offs, homecomings & casual get-togethers. And to help Post & Auxiliaries participate in Adopt-s-Unit and Family Readiness Group events.

The Unmet Needs program gives grants up to \$1500 payable to the creditor to help bridge the gap to make a mortgage or rent payment or to fund home and auto repairs, insurance, utility cost, food and clothing. While the soldier is away, the family can get help through this program.

The VFW "Sport Chips Help a Hero Scholarship" awards scholarships up to \$5000 to qualifying veterans & servicemembers to help them complete their educational goal without incurring excessive student loan debt.

The VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) helps veterans, servicemembers & their families obtain the benefits they deserve—at no cost. They are assisted by qualified personnel in filing claims for: Disability Compensation, Rehabilitation & Educational Programs, Pension & Death Benefits, Employment & Training Programs, Hospital & Outpatient Care, Specialized Health Care for Female Veterans & Alcohol & Drug Dependency Treatment.

Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention is an area we see and hear about all around us, but we still don't know how to address it. This year we will become more aware of the resources available and what signs to look for as we travel amongst our Veterans and their family. The most recent statistics show that

more than 16 Veterans every day commit suicide. Sisters & brothers in a years' time, that is over 5000 veterans we lose to this horrible activity. What are the five signs of mental health? (1) Are you feeling like you? (2) Are you feeling agitated? (3) Are you withdrawn? (4) Are you caring for yourself? (5) Do you feel hopeless? More of this information will be on the Auxiliary website soon. However, if you or someone you know is in need now, you can call the **VETERANS CRISIS LINE by Dialing 988 Press 1**. You will reach a Crisis Professional for a confidential conversation.

Let's be part of the orchestra by **"Banding Together for Our Veterans"** and **"Bee The Change."**

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