



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin - October/November, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Veterans and Family Support-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Operation Enduring Freedom begins October 7, 2001

Birth of our U.S. Navy October 13, 1775



O is for October and **O** is also for ***Operation Bottom Cover***. Operation Bottom Cover is our National President Brenda Bryant's Special Project for 2024-25. You and your Auxiliary are being asked to help with this often overlooked expense of diapers and wipes for the babies of our active military and veteran families. Auxiliaries that participate in this project by **reporting** their promotion and or fundraising, will get a chance to receive a Citation of Merit and \$10. Here are more than a few ways to help:

- Gift money to Operation Bottom Cover through MALTA under gifts- National President's Special Project or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked NP special project.
- Coordinate with and make a gift of diapers directly to a military base. If you don't have a contact at the base, reach out to your VFW VMS Chairman, maybe they can help.
- Host a diaper giveaway for veteran or military families at your Post.
- Your Auxiliary can donate directly to a veteran or military family with this need in your area.
- Don't forget the wipes. Maybe you can challenge the VFW for every box of diapers you deliver, they can throw in the wipes. Team Work.

When your Auxiliary helps with this project, it can be reported under Veterans & Family Support i.e. promoting or participating with disaster relief, military assistance, National Veterans Service, unmet needs or providing direct aid; just remember to mention Operation Bottom Cover. In the near future, a link will be shared with members where veteran and military families can apply for this type of assistance.

Last day to report what you and your Auxiliary has done from August thru October is: October 31, 2024.

Birth of our U.S. Marine Corps November 10, 1775

Veterans Day November 11

Honor Flight- websites and addresses:

upperpeninsulahonorflight.org -7480 J Rd. Gladstone, MI 49837

talonsouthonorflight.org -PO Box 280 Portage, MI 49081

midmichiganhonorflight.org -PO Box 98 Gowen, MI 49326

Since November is National Veterans and Military Families Month, this would be an excellent time to spread the word about the VFW's **National Veterans Service** or also known as **NVS**. NVS helps veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits that they are entitled to and deserve - at no cost.

NVS provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Those VFW Service Officers recover more than \$1 billion annually in VA benefits for veterans and their dependents. These highly competent professionals assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, in filing claims for:

- Disability Compensation.
- Rehabilitation and Educational Programs.
- Pension and Death Benefits.
- Employment and Training Programs.
- VA Health Care.
- Hospital Inpatient or Outpatient.
- Specialized Healthcare for Female Veterans.
- Alcohol and other Drug Dependency Treatment
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service such as Agent Orange, Camp LeJuenne or other environmental hazards.

Coordinating an open house event or activity that includes VFW accredited Service Officers to help all veterans, military and their families to navigate the VA system to obtain their benefits is one of your VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support goals. Auxiliaries that complete and **report** this goal under Veterans & Family Support activity, will get a chance to receive a Citation of Merit and \$10.

Keep up the good job of reporting. If you or your Auxiliary are providing meals to veterans or their family members, report it. Every report no matter how big or small counts!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have with this program or reporting. I am here to help. If I can't help, I will try to find someone that can.

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