



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support – June/July 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Veterans and Family Support-Michigan

National Theme: *From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free*

Department Theme: *We Don't Know Them All, But We Owe Them All*

First, I would like to thank Madam President, Debbie Scheetz, for this appointment. While all of our programs are important, this is the reason we are here! I am honored to hold this position.

The main points this year will focus on:

- VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs
- Veterans' Mental Health Awareness
- Veteran and Veteran Spouses Employment



Please make yourselves familiar with programs we can support to support Veterans and their families around Michigan. As noted on the guide sheet, there is National Veterans Service (NVS) which assists veterans, service members, and their families receive benefits. There are also VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs who assist active and recently discharged service members. These programs include Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, and Adopt-A-Unit. You may notice that the Sports Clips Scholarship is no longer listed here and you're right. It is now part of the Scholarships program so be sure to look there for it!

If you'd like to make donations to any of these programs you can do so 3 different ways. The first and easiest, is to send it to the VFW Department Office and make a specific note of which program (this also gives your Post credit). If you have a credit card, you can visit at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select the program you would like to donate to and click "Contribute." And finally, you can mail a check to: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Processing Center P.O. Box 2002, Milford, NH 03055-2002.

With June 27 being Post Traumatic Stress Awareness Day it is important to be aware of some resources available:

- Chat online: veteranscrisisline.net
- Text: 838255
- Call 988, press 1
- Call 1 800 MyVA411



This is the time to be reaching out to those service members you know in case they need some support. It's possible they'll decline the help, but your offer may be what changes everything for them that day. They may also take you up on your offer to help. This is why it is so important to be familiar with the various programs you can refer them to. Don't forget about the Veteran Family Resource Center at our very own VFW National Home!

If you are, otherwise, at a loss for how to help, you can visit vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness. This will bring you more information about programs including Give an Hour, Campaign to Change Direction, One Mind, PatientsLikeMe and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

Now is the time to set yourself up for success and begin planning events. The National award, and a Department award, is for the most outstanding activity and/or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community. Make sure you take pictures and get ready to submit that award. It will be here before you know it!

Be sure to track the number of Veterans, Service Members, and/or their families over the course of the year. This is also a Department award and I would like to report that Michigan is out there helping everyone!

Finally, don't forget to report. This is the program you **MUST** report in to remain a healthy auxiliary!

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