

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN

September 2023

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Veterans & Family Support-Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

*“On the Battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a Nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.” –Dan Lipinski*

This month is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and has been recognized as such for more than a decade. This month we will work alongside practitioners, mental health activists, and other organizations across this nation to reduce the prevalence of suicide and provide support to those who struggle. One way, we as an organization, can assist in this endeavor is to educate ourselves on signs, resources, bringing forth awareness and perhaps conducting fundraising efforts to help reduce suicide among our service members, veterans and their families.



This month we can bring awareness by supporting our Department President, Sara Manke, in planting a tree in honor of someone who has committed suicide or in honor of suicide awareness. You can reach out to your local nursery and ask if they may be able to donate a tree. Be sure to partner with your Historian and your local newspaper. You can include your dedication (be sure to have a plaque) and include information such as how to receive services, the Veterans Crisis Line number and the five warning signs.

Giveanhour.org is another resource that is beneficial for promoting readiness, responsiveness and resilience. On their website you can sign up to be a ‘Wellness Ambassador’. They will send you a weekly training to essentially give you the resources to encourage others to care for themselves and ask for help when needed. Other organizations partnered with the VFW to offer training, support, and resources and they can be found at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under ‘Assistance’. Be sure to check them out!



The VFW Auxiliary has also provided wonderful tools for you to use at events and throughout your program year. Be sure to check out Malta at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) to print off those materials. There you can find the Blue Teardrop stickers you can distribute to show your support (you can also purchase a pin from the VFW store). In addition, you will find the VFW Auxiliary Resource Rack Card that provides a list of local resources for quick, easy reference as well as the Veteran Crisis Line.

If your Auxiliary has not already, please consider purchasing Sara’s program pin. This pin provides personal meaning for her and falls in line with our mission this month. Proceeds support a local veterans group in Marquette County emphasizing on combat veterans and mental health. Where should you report the purchase of your pin? Under Veteran & Family Support, under ‘Other’.



**October 2023**

*"You always want to be ready for that next job, that next position, and have your education behind you so that you can ensure you are ready for that next challenge."*

*–Adjutant General Brig. Gen. William "Bill" Crane*



### **VFW "Sport Clips® Help a Hero Scholarship"**

This month I want to highlight this VFW Veterans & Military Support Program! This scholarship provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. To date, this program has awarded almost 2,400 scholarships totaling \$11.4 million. By supporting this program through donations or attending a local Sport Clips, during the month of October, you are providing another way to say "thank you" to those that fought for our freedoms. Scholarship details and eligibility can be found at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), under "Assistance". If you know a qualified service member or veteran, please encourage them to visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) to apply as applications are currently open until November 15th for the spring semester.

Sport Clips® stores around the country will collect donations in-store from October 9 through November 12 to help fund these life-changing scholarships. More than 80% of the funds raised each year come directly from their generous clients, with the balance coming from their generous suppliers and product partners.



On Veterans Day, November 11th, participating Sport Clips® locations will provide free haircuts to veterans and active duty service members as well as donate \$2 for every haircut service provided on that day. Head to [www.sportsclip.com](http://www.sportsclip.com) to search for a store near you that is offering free haircuts on Veterans Day.

How can your Auxiliary support this worthy cause? Promote and/or fundraise! Check out your local Sport Clips® to see if they participate. Make a video outside their door (with permission) to encourage your friends, family and community to come out to Sports Clips between October 9 to November 12. They can get a cut and their donation will benefit our military community. You can host a dinner or activity and advertise that your proceeds will benefit this worthy cause.

Where can you send your donations? Donations can be sent to VFW National Headquarters, Attn: Veterans & Military Support, 406 W. 34th Street, 9th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111. Or, you can encourage others to donate directly at [www.sportsclip.com](http://www.sportsclip.com), under "Partnerships" then, "Help A Hero". I will be sharing a direct link on Facebook during the month of October for your Auxiliary to share on your community pages.

Christine LeBrun,  
Veterans & Family Support Chairman  
10367 River Rock Blvd  
Dimondale, MI 48821  
803-406-9088



[vfsmi23.24@gmail.com](mailto:vfsmi23.24@gmail.com)