

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN

July 2023

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

Happy Birthday, America!!

Thank you to everyone who was able to come to the Department Convention in June and attend the School of Instruction. There was lots of great information presented and I hope that Auxiliaries were able to leave with information that will help aid them in getting their program year off to a great start!



This month brings us many opportunities to have adventures that take us outdoors and perhaps a stop at a local eatery along your way. This month I will share about the VFW's Veteran and Military Support program, Unmet needs.



The VFW Unmet Needs program was established in 2004 and has provided over \$10.5 million in emergency assistance to nearly 9,000 qualified veterans and military families!

Unmet Needs provides financial aid of up to \$1,500 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant - not a loan - so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, the creditor is paid directly!

The financial hardship must be due to the following:

- Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of current deployment, military pay error, or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service-connected injuries and/or illness.
- Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation for a service connected injury/illness and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

Expenses that are eligible for payment include household expenses, vehicle expenses, utilities, children's school or childcare expenses, medical bills, prescriptions and eyeglasses. More information can be found at www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants. For donations for this program, visit www.vfw.org/Contribute. Please report when your Auxiliary donates to this cause!

In addition, Burger King franchisees have become the primary supporter of the Unmet Needs program. You can support this program during the month of July (and November) by stopping by participating Burger Kings. I encourage your summer stop to be at a participating Burger King as they will donate 100% of their proceeds for the month to support veteran and military families!



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August



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

What is the Military Assistance Program (MAP)?

The Military Assistance Program, since 2005, has sponsored events that have supported service members and their families. This program, through donations, provides financial assistance to VFW Post and Auxiliaries (Departments, too), to sponsor troop send-offs, homecomings, and get-togethers. This program also supports Adopt-a-Unit funding opportunities!

Does your Auxiliary have a local military unit that needs support?

Or, do you know of any Welcome Home opportunities that might be in the works? Summer is here! Don't miss out on a chance to receive financial assistance to help aid your Auxiliary in developing supportive relationships with our service members and their families! You can use this program to fund any Family Days, Picnics, BBQ's, Welcome Home's and Deployment Ceremonies, Holidays or Festivals. (Please note: MAP Grants cannot be used for Public Events and/or Formal Military events such as: Military Dining In/Out, Military Balls, Change of Command/Responsibility Ceremonies, etc.) The grant does require the application for assistance to be submitted 14 days before the event, along with some other terms and conditions. Check out <http://www.vfw.org/troopsupport/> for more information!

One of our Auxiliaries missions for this program year is to also support the National Veterans Service (NVS) and VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs through monetary donations. As an Auxiliary, get creative on ways to promote and support these wonderful programs. This month you can host a BBQ Cookout with all proceeds benefiting these critical support programs. Don't forget to report how much you donated. Addresses for donation submission can be found www.vfw.org or in the VFW Auxiliary Program Book under Veterans & Family Support.



When reporting, please indicate how many veterans, service members or their families you assisted. In addition, if your Auxiliary provided monetary donations or goods/services, please indicate the dollar amount!

If you would like to be on my email list, please email me below so I can add you to my roster. If you are a District Chairman, please email me your contact info and indicate what District you are from.

Upcoming Dates:

August 4th is National Coast Guard Day. Do you know a Coast Guard service member? This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to take them out to dinner or see if they have needs that need to be met.

August 6th is Michigan Day at the VFW National Home. Bring a veteran or their family out for the afternoon and give them a tour around the VFW National Home. This is an opportunity to share the support services they have at the Home.

August 7, Purple Heart Day; August 16, Airborne Day; August 29, Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

Christine LeBrun, Veterans & Family Support Chairman

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