

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN

November 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Veterans & Family Support-Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

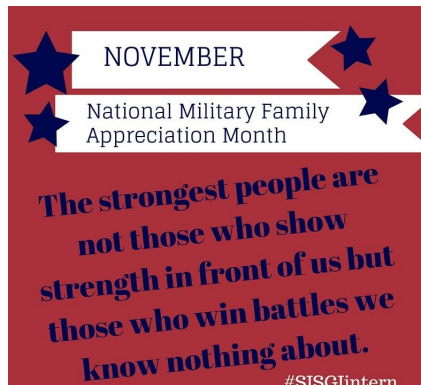


FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." —John Fitzgerald Kennedy



November is here and it gives us lots of opportunities to say "Thank you!" and show our appreciation! Here are the following holidays to support this mission:

National Veterans & Military Month
Warrior Care Month
National Family Caregivers Month
National Veterans Small Business Week - Oct. 30 -Nov. 3, 23
Marine Corp Birthday - November 10
Veterans Day - November 11

Here are a few ways ideas for Auxiliaries to support this month's themes and celebrations:

-Does your Auxiliary or community members have any active duty families stationed abroad? Gather a list of those that you might have and reach out with a simple "Thinking of You" card. Let them know they have an Auxiliary back home to support them. Do they have any needs?

-What is Warrior Care Month? It is highlighting the strength and resilience physically, mentally, and spiritually – of our wounded, ill, and injured service members and their families and caregivers. The effort is aimed at raising awareness of the recovery coordination resources and programs available today and inspiring year-round discussions regarding today's warrior care priorities. Promote resources on your Auxiliary Facebook pages or community pages. A great place to start is <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics>.

-Does your Auxiliary know of any family caregivers? Perhaps have an appreciation dinner for them or offer to bring them dinner one night to help ease some of the daily stress. Reach out and let them know they are not alone. There are a lot of resources out there like www.caregiver.va.gov that you can get more ideas of support from.

-Do you know any veteran or military spouse owned businesses in your area? Let's celebrate and empower these businesses through promotion, purchasing or even calling them with some encouraging words. Also, if you know of any transitioning veterans, there are resources available to them to help them like [Boots to Business](#) or connect them with your local [Veterans Business Outreach Center](#) to assist them in developing a business plan, receive marketing tips, and access government contracting opportunities.

-How can I or my Auxiliary support Veterans Day? Attend a community event (or create one!) to show your appreciation; Write a "Thank You" note to Veterans in your life; Offer a discount if you are a business owner (be creative); Volunteer (Host a food drive/supply drive; Visit a nursing home; Assist veterans in need with chores or tasks; and/or Donate!

December 2023

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you happiness.” – Helen Keller

The season of “Thankfulness” has come and gone, but now we are entering the season of “Giving”. What does giving look like? It can be the donation of our time to local organizations to support their cause, like Wreaths Across America or your local food bank. Do you have any veterans or families that might need assistance with leaf pick up or snow shoveling this winter? Get volunteers lined up now to help those that might need assistance in various ways. Now is also the time to establish an opportunity to send a care package to an active duty member that might be spending the holidays alone. Your giving opportunities are abundant!

According to an article in the MVAA website dated July 23, 2023, “In 2022, there were 2,342 veterans experiencing homelessness in Michigan, according to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). But Erika Hoover, the MVAA’s women veterans and special populations coordinator, said that number is likely much higher.” This month I want to encourage Auxiliaries to reach out to their local homeless veteran organizations and ask them how you and your Auxiliary can help them this month. The weather here in Michigan is pretty brutal and this is



the time of year when donations and vital resources are needed the most. One way you may be able to assist is to create Winter Support Kits for Homeless Veterans. Items can include: gloves, warm socks, hat, scarf, toiletry items, water, snacks, and a gift card to the local Speedway for a cup of warm joe. In those kits, you can include local resources that might be beneficial, the local VSO (Veteran Service Officer) contact information, and any events that might support their well being.

This holiday season can be a time of happiness, good cheer and excitement. But, for others, it can mean loneliness, isolation, grief and sadness. Please reach out to those that might be struggling this holiday season. You can do that through a phone call, card, or even inviting them over from some coffee or to fill an empty seat at your table.

Reporting: If your Auxiliary has yet to report anything for Veterans & Family support, I would highly encourage you to do so by the end of the month. If you need assistance with reporting, please don't hesitate to reach out. This program is the heart of our organization and it is why we are here!

December Holidays:

- 12/7- National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12/13- U.S. National Guard Birthday
- 12/16- Wreaths Across America
- 12/20- U.S. Space Force Birthday

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