

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN

January 2024

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

Facebook Page: Veterans & Family Support-Michigan

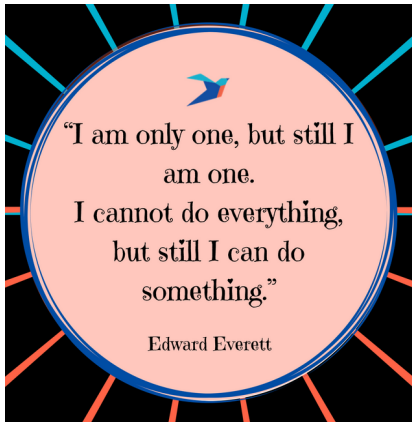
UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*



Happy New Year! Hard to believe it is already 2024! I hope you all had an inspiring holiday season. The end of 2023 provided us with abundant opportunities to serve and I am confident you were all able to participate in something. As of late, I have heard some murmurs about how some Auxiliaries just do not have the help to accomplish tasks like they want to. Please don't be discouraged! Even if there is only one person that is able to "get things done" you are still one and you are doing something! This is something to celebrate! Keep doing what you are doing; take one task at a time and enjoy the service opportunity.

As I have said, January is here and that means that our program reporting year is fastly approaching its end. As of this writing, I have not received a sound report from approximately 39 Auxiliaries! There are a few that have reported only under "other", which have been great opportunities for assisting veterans and their families, but what really counts is reporting under one of the achievements you see listed below. This list can also be found on your Guide Sheet at [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org) under "Programs". I want to encourage all Auxiliaries to be reported at least once under one of these listed achievements this month. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Auxiliary utilized the Veterans & Family Support material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources		
Auxiliary promoted, participated, hosted/co-hosted with your VFW Post activities for any of these programs: Disaster Relief, Military Assistance (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), Unmet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness		
Auxiliary provided direct aid to veterans, service members, and/or their families (i.e., meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.)		
How many Veterans, service members and or their families did your auxiliary help.		
Did your Auxiliary provide monetary donations and / or value donations and good/services provided to veterans, service members and /or their families.		

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held January 25-27 at the Radisson in Kalamazoo. If you cannot make it the entire event, I encourage you to come to the Program Chairman Year-End Wrap Up training that will be held Saturday, January 27, from 9:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.. I anticipate seeing many of you there!

## February 2024

*"The best way to honor those you care about is through acts of kindness"*



February offers us the opportunity to reach out to our communities and encourage them to show acts of kindness to our Veterans! How may you ask? One way your Auxiliary can increase awareness and support for our Veterans, service members and their families is by hosting a community wide 'Valentine's for Veterans'. This is not a new concept but it is one we can do to be intentional in creating awareness. This is an opportunity to partner with other programs, like Hospital, Membership, Historian/Media Relations and Scholarships. You can host a drop off time for community members to bring their homemade Valentine's to your post home, host an opportunity for the community to come to your Post home to create Valentine's or even partner with your local school to get the children involved in creating cards. You can then deliver Valentine's to Veterans in your communities, send them to active duty service members, or give some to your local VA to name a few. The possibilities here are endless. I can't wait to see what your Auxiliary comes up with and be sure to share on our program Facebook page.

If you haven't had the time to look at the National Awards for Auxiliaries, they are as follows:

**1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members, and their families.**

- Citations to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members, and their families.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members, and their families.

**2. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.**

- Citations to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members, and their families.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the (4) Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

These awards are also Department Awards. You must submit the form found at [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org) under Veterans and Family Support to me by March 31, 2024! Please do not wait until the last minute. These can take some thought and time. You all have done such great work this year and I hope to receive many of these award forms!

### Dates to Remember:

Feb 3- Four Chaplains Day  
Feb 4 - USO Birthday

Feb 11-17- National Salute to Veteran Patients

Feb 14- Valentine's Day  
Feb 19- Coast Guard Birthday

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)

