

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin June-July 2026-27

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Veterans and Family Support - Michigan

National Theme: *Serving America's Heroes*

Department Theme: *Leading With a Patriots Heart*

PROGRAM GOALS

Promote Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) Veteran, Military Suicide & Mental Health Awareness

Assist Veterans, Service Members and their Families

Promote Resources for Veterans and Military Support Programs

Our Veterans served their country, now, we have the opportunity to serve them through promoting the Veterans & Family Support resources and programs that are in place to assist and also find new ways. The first thing, as chairman, you need to do is familiarize yourself with VFW resources already in place to help with Unmet Needs. Reporting what you do to complete the Guide Sheet points is very important. This chairmanship is what our mission as a VFW Auxiliary is all about – you **MUST** report to remain a healthy auxiliary. I am here to help you accomplish a completed program – questions and ideas are welcomed! We are a team and need to work together to assist & support Veterans, Service Members and their Families.

***NATIONAL VETERAN SERVICE:** (NVS) assist veterans before and after discharge with receiving earned benefits and entitlements and how to mainstream into society again.

☺ **Michigan Department President Manke's Special Project** this year is "**VETS RETURNING HOME**" - Which fits into this category – it helps homeless veterans in crisis reclaim independence – helping with transitioning veterans back into society as fully functioning community members. More information can be found at www.vetsreturninghome.org and on their Facebook page. More information will be in each bulletin & on the Facebook page on how you can support & promote this program.



👉 **President Manke's personal pin** will go to support this Project – the cost this year is \$3.00 and can be purchased at the June 2026 convention in Kalamazoo at the President's Pin table or ordered from Pin Chairman, Ruth Barnhill. The Purchase of the pins **and** promoting "Vets Returning Home" are each points on the Veterans & Family Support Guide Sheet and should be reported in this chairmanship.

***NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES:** (NMS) aids those currently serving. These programs are the hands that are trusted to plant a sense of caring for the needs to help with growth and understanding, they include, Military Appreciation Program (MAP), Adopt-a-Unit, care packages, VFW Financial Assistance, Student Veteran Support Grants. You are encouraged to research these programs and cultivate inventive ways to present each resource to the public. Financial support for these programs is also needed. Donations may be made at the VFW Department office, online at vfw.org/ways you can help, and by mail (VFW Processing Center P.O. Box 2002, Milford, NH 03055-2002). Always earmark for the program you are donating to.

***SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS:** Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and mental health awareness will be our focus this year. Make sure you include the public when you promote resources available to assist Veterans, currently serving & their families. Secondary PTS is just as prevalent a problem. Think of those families living with someone with PTS as “A Veteran of *the* Veteran” they need to know they can reach out for help and understanding. Promote the VFW and its Auxiliary, as a safe space and think of ways to comfort and heal those in need. Offer a “Comfort Time” use the time to make “appreciation cards, play games, learn a new craft, etc. – a no pressure time of fellowship - you never know if just getting out & connecting, a smile, or talking about “nothing” will make a difference.



National Post Traumatic Stress Awareness Month is June - Awareness Day is June 27

- The teal ribbon is the primary symbol used to raise awareness for Post Traumatic Stress (first & secondary) and to show support for those affected by it. Teal is chosen for its association with **healing, advocacy, and open communication**, helping to reduce stigma and encourage individuals to seek help. Give these out to **promote awareness. Promotional Materials are available online at - PTSD: National Center for PTSD USE YEAR ROUND!**

Why not help organize a community veteran/military/family resource fair, ask a qualified speaker to talk about suicide prevention, PTS and Secondary PTS – invite the public and make sure resources are available. Nationwide organizations such as; **Give an Hour, Campaign to Change Direction, One Mind, PatientsLikeMe** and the **Elizabeth Dole Foundation**, have teamed up with the VFW to combat this critical issue. Check online for resources they offer.

Make “crisis cards” with crisis information to give out at every event at your Post. The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline ☎



**Veterans
Crisis Line**

Chat online: veteranscrisisline.net **Call:** 988 Press 1
Text : 838255 **Call:** 1800 MyVA411

*** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year*.**

Also Learn about resources and support to change the stigma surrounding mental health on the VFW website at:
<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>

YOU ARE “SERVING AMERICA’S HEROES” by “LEADING WITH A PATRIOT’S HEART” when you **REPORT** all you do - One Guideline step at a time for **“Veterans & Family Support”**. We are a Team - You are not alone – I am here to help you – together we **WILL** reach our goals!

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