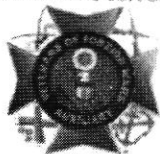


UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin August-September 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

AUGUST 2026

REPORTING: Working together as a team and reporting what you do for the Veterans & Family Support program is very important. Through promoting programs available to Veterans and their families we can help bring a solution to the problems faced by Veterans and their families every day. Reporting how you were able to reach your community, veterans, and families will help other auxiliaries reach even more veterans with the information they need.

The Guide Sheet provided at the beginning of the year is intended to outline the steps needed to meet the program goals. Its purpose is to guide you. Communication is the key to success: by promoting available programs and reporting what you do, helps share ideas and reach more veterans. When completing the report, please note that when it asks **who**, you do not need to provide a specific name, such as "helped John Smith." Instead, identify the general group or activity, such as Veteran, family member, spouse, or event. If your description includes **how many** and **how much**, you do not need to complete achievements #3 and #5 because that information is already included. If you do a few of the same kind of activities but at different times – include them in the same report and make sure you fill in the # of projects done and include numbers for all projects. The details requested on the report is needed to prepare the final report for President Manke at the end of the year. Please include the **"WHO", WHAT, WHEN, WHY, HOW MUCH, and HOW MANY, & VFW RESOURCES USED.**



RESOURCE BONANZA: Your "go-to" for information and resources can be found on **"MALTA"** **M**embership **A**uxiliary **L**eadership **T**echnology **A**ccess <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org> Activate your account today!

Check out the Veterans and Family Support – Michigan Facebook page for suggestions and ideas to help you spread the word about programs to give support.

SPECIAL DATES TO SHOW APPRECIATION & CELEBRATE OUR VETERANS

Aug. 4.....U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

Aug. 7.....Purple Heart Day

Aug. 16.....National airborne Day

Aug. 29.....Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

Sept. 2.....V-J Day (Victory over Japan)

Sept. 7.....Labor Day

Sept. 11.....Patriot Day

Sept. 18.....Air Force Birthday & POW/MIA DAY

Sept. 27Gold Star Mothers & Family Day

SEPTEMBER 2026

Suicide Prevention Month 2026 is observed in **September**, with World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10 and National Suicide Prevention Week from September 13 to 19.

Know the Signs: Familiarize yourself with the "5 Signs" of emotional suffering

1. Talking About Suicide or Death
2. Uncharacteristic Changes in Behavior
3. Isolation and Withdrawal
4. Accessing Lethal Means
5. Extreme Mood Swings or Changes in Sleep Patterns

• **The Lifeline:** Keep the 988 (Press 1) number saved in your phone and displayed in your Posts. Your awareness could be the bridge that leads a veteran from crisis to recovery. You truly may not know how much of a difference you may make in someone's life.



Use the teardrop sticker pattern on the Veterans and Family Support page located on the Auxiliary Website to make stickers or make pins with teal & purple ribbon to give to people in the community to raise awareness of the importance of Suicide Prevention.



You can make the difference check out other Ideas at: [vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness](https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness)

STUDENT VETERAN SUPPORT : The VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support> explains opportunities for student veterans to gain help with education and even career help beyond education. You can learn about Programs like the **Student Veteran Support Grant**, which offers much needed assistance to support specific student veteran events. The VFW has teamed up with **Student Veterans of America**, which provides exemplary student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community. This program has been held annually since 2014. The VFW has also teamed with **Sport Clips Haircuts** to provide the assistance needed to help with the cost of an education. Information about Education and Career Resources, Choosing a School, the GI Bill, and little known facts about what is available to veterans can all be found on the website above. Take the opportunity to promote all these programs in support of Veterans and their families by having a booth at community events – think of ways you can “Spread the Opportunities”

VFW FOUNDATION GRANTS: ***VFW #StillServing Grant** is offered exclusively to VFW Posts, Districts and Their Auxiliaries to offset expenses incurred while doing community service projects. ***Uniting for Veterans Grant** help with donations to local food banks, pantries or homeless relief organizations. ***Post Assistance Grant (PAG)** for Posts building repairs and equipment. ***VFW Disaster Relief Fund** provides our organization with the opportunity to react quickly with immediate relief to affected areas. More information is available on the VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/community/communityinitiatives/post-grants>. Donations are welcome for all these programs. Promote these programs & do a Fundraising Event to help serve even more Veterans & their families.

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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