

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
HOSPITAL BULLETIN
September, 2021
www.vfwauxmi.org



*National Theme: **Soaring Above & Beyond***

*Department Theme: **Tell Our Story of Service***

Congratulations to **Cheryle Nastos** named Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in Division 10 at this year's National Convention and to all of you for helping Michigan to take 2nd Place in our Division.

September is Suicide Awareness Month

We are still losing Veterans every day to suicide. Please promote awareness of this travesty and stop the trend by sharing the Veterans Crisis Hotline Number in and around your community. **1-800-273-8255, Press 1.**

Despite the Veterans Administration's diligent work to reduce military suicide, the overall suicide rate for veterans remain at 1.5 times the suicide rate civilians. According to a June 2021 study completed by the New York Times, suicides among post-9/11 veterans are significantly higher than combat deaths.

STAR Raffle

Our next STAR Raffle will take place October 1 & 2 at the Fall Conference. Please donate gift cards from state-wide restaurants and stores, MasterCard, Visa, Amazon, etc. valued from \$5 to \$25. If no one from your auxiliary plans to attend, perhaps your District President can deliver them to me at Boyne Highlands.

WOMEN VETERANS' HEALTH

Detroit VAs Military Moms' Baby Shower is scheduled for September 25. Donations to that event must be received at the hospital by September 16. Be sure to complete a donation form so the proper VFW Auxiliary gets credit.

Unwrapped baby shower gifts can be donated directly to any VA facility. Monetary donations for a Military Moms' Baby Shower at VA hospitals can be sent to the Department office, earmarked for that VA hospital's baby shower.

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HONORS ESCORT PROGRAM

Our National VFW Auxiliary will award a citation to every auxiliary that provides outreach education about the Honors Escort Program. One auxiliary in each of the four conferences will be awarded a citation and \$25 for the most outstanding outreach education. To be eligible for either award, you must submit a completed Hospital Award for Auxiliaries No. 1 Form (available on the department website) to me by March 31, 2022. NOTE: Michigan is part of the Big Ten Conference.

VOLUNTEERING

The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) exists to “Serve Those Who Served” while the Veterans are cared for by the VA health care facilities. Volunteer roles include information, escort service, recreation, and the distribution of personal items to make the Veteran’s hospital stay more comfortable. It is the largest volunteer program in the Federal government.

Voluntary Service is also responsible for receiving and distributing donated funds. These donations benefit VA hospital inpatients, Veterans receiving outpatient care and homeless veterans.

Donate your time by volunteering and/or auxiliary money to this worthwhile cause.

REPORTING TIPS

- Never include a monetary value for mileage. Only report the number of miles traveled.
- Separately reporting that you read and discussed the Hospital Bulletin at all three auxiliary meetings during the quarter, will gain you proper credit. If you report it combined, the system only gives you credit for one.

May God continue to bless the U.S.A. Make a difference by ***Soaring Above and Beyond!***

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