



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans and Family Support – August-September 2019

www.vfwauxmi.org

www.vfwauxiliarydepartmentofmichiganveteransandfamilyysupport

National Theme: *Serving Our Veterans with Aloha*
Department Theme: *Serving with a Patriot's Heart*

AUGUST

Welcome back!!! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Just a reminder, our fall conference is coming up on September 26th 27th and 28th at Boyne Highlands resort, please get your reservations in, they are filling up fast. Please look at your guide sheet, you need to be reporting on the achievements listed. The only way we can know how many veterans you have helped, what you did for them, etc. is in the reporting. Please don't send me a report stating I sat through a meeting, also include if you bought a lunch for a veteran, etc., or if you learned something new. I want to be able to read your report and understand what you learned. Everything you do for a veteran is reportable. Every year we give numbers, this year I really want to know all of you through your reporting, please report anything you do for our Veterans. Not sure if it is reportable? Send it to me with a little note, and I'll decide and let you know.

Our National Ambassador wants me to share with you about our VFW Veterans and Military Support. Veterans and Military Support contains four programs initiated by the VFW: Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship," and Operation Uplink. These programs serve active-duty and recently discharged military.

Donations to Veterans and Military Support can be made online or by mail. Then report to me! Donate online at www.vfw.org/ways-to-help, select Veterans and Military Support, click "Contribute."

Donations by mail by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for Veterans & Military Support. Mail checks to:

***VFW National Headquarters
Attn: Veterans & Military Support
406 W. 34th Street, 9th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111***

Military Assistance Program (MAP) Funds Way to Connect with Troops Maps helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units. It helps forge and nurture bonds with those units by providing financial assistance for Posts, Districts and Departments to sponsor morale-boosting send offs, homecomings and casual get-togethers.

Posts and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-a-Unit and Family Readiness Group events can also receive assistance. For guidelines to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW Veterans and Military Support office at VFW Veterans and Military Support office at 816-756-3390.

SEPTEMBER

It's the great month of September, children are going back to school, now is a great time to get into your child's (or grandchild's) class and ask the teacher if they can do a supply drive for a homeless veterans shelters, they can also make thank you cards for our veterans at the shelters, birthday cards, the class can also send them. Start planning events that can help celebrate our military families. You can also volunteer your time. Help a veteran shop, leave a care package with items you know they can use, leave it on their doorstep or deliver it to them with a thank you card. Honor their Commitment to their Support of our Country. Please remember these men and women wrote a blank check payable with their lives so we can be FREE.

It is so important to for you to report how many veterans you have helped, the value of your donation or the money you spent. Please help a veteran, it is so much appreciated. PTSD is a devastating issue that our veterans have to deal with, please help our veterans as they have done for us.

The United States Veteran is "why" we are here, but there is more to this program that some forget. A veteran either was drafted, or enlisted on his or her own, but their family was drafted or enlisted, too. Family members may not have had their boots on the ground, but they were, and are, there with our veterans every day; during boot camp, during combat, on a ship on the other side of the world. Those who support our veterans sometimes needs our support too. It may be that they need additional education on how to help their veteran cope with PTSD, or help caring for their wounded veteran now that they are home, or just as importantly, emotional help and/or time for themselves. It's time for them. It's time to SUPPORT OUR HEROES.

Our veterans need to know that they have more than 1.6 million brothers and sisters here to help them. We ARE a family. It might not be blood, but they do have family who will have their back no matter what. Family takes care of its own. The United States veteran is our own. It's time to help them live in peace. Be present at your VFW Post and in the veteran community-more than just one day a month at your Auxiliary meeting. Work with your Post and other community service groups to help our veterans in need. And more importantly, make it happen! It's time to SUPPORT our heroes! Be active. Be present. Be there for our veterans. It's time to SUPPORT our heroes!

Chairmen attend your District meeting and Fall Conference. Great information will be at the School of Instruction at your District meeting. When you attend, make sure you pass your information on to your auxiliary. You are the most important factor in getting your auxiliary to understand why we must do this important work.

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