

# KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY 2025-2026 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – March 2026



Has your Auxiliary sent in a donation to the Dept. Hospital General Fund and reported at least one Hospital project? If the answer is no, why?

**FINAL Hospital reports for Dept. awards and entry forms for Natl. awards for 2025-2026 term due March 31, 2026.**

Don't say  
"There's still time"  
or  
"Maybe next time"  
Because there's also  
the concept of  
"It's too late"

The **Honors Escort**, aka the **Final Salute**, are ceremonies for veterans who have passed away in a institutionalized setting. These ceremonies allow family members, friends, veterans, Auxiliaries and staff to pay their respects and honor the deceased veteran the dignity and respect due them for their contributions, service and sacrifice. This program typically involves a dignified farewell, where the veteran is escorted out of the building on their way to their final destination.

This procession varies by facility and availability of staff/volunteers at the time of death. Ceremonies often include one, or more, of the following: condolences to the family, flag draped gurney, a military salute, hands over hearts by civilians, a brief reading or prayer, ringing of a bell, taps. Contact your local medical facilities and help them start an **Honors Escort** program.

Find more inspirational occasions to spread **SUNSHINE** to our hospitalized veterans at: [holidayscalendar.com](http://holidayscalendar.com)

## March: Patient Safety Awareness Week 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

- 12 – Plant a Flower Day
- 17 – St. Patrick's Day **\*\*New card on website**
- 20 – World Storytelling Day
- 21 – \*National Common Courtesy Day
- 25 – National Medal of Honor Day
- 27 – Quirky Country Music Song Titles Day (contest)
- 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- 30 – National Doctors Day



## April: National Volunteer Week 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month (see Oct Sunflower)
- 02 – National Burrito Day
- 04 – National Handmade Day
- 05 – Easter **\*\*New card on website**
- 08 – National Zoo Lovers Day
- 12 – Grilled Cheese Day (new challenge below)
- 14 – \*National Look Up at the Sky Day
- 15 – National Banana Day

Common courtesies refer to basic behaviors and attitudes expected in social interactions, which include: Politeness, Respect, Apologizing, Good Manners, Everyday Acts. Utilize **National Common Courtesy Day, March 21<sup>st</sup>**, to take extra steps to be aware of how you treat those around you. When the situation warrants ...Reply to that email; return that phone call; hold the door; help clean up; offer your seat, or a smile, or a handshake; say please, thank you, you're welcome, hello, I'm sorry; offer assistance; etc. **Repeat every day.**

Clouds, stars, and the [moon](#) are just there waiting for us to notice their beauty and grandeur. Let's all come together on **April 14, National Look Up At the Sky Day**, and take a good look at the spacious skies over our America the Beautiful.

Fill sacks with gifts, goodies and gratitude for our hospitalized veterans.

**THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE**

blanket	ear buds	sunglasses
shoes	gloves	garden supplies
shampoo	jeans	ball caps
cookies	slim jims	backpacks
Robotic pets	flip flops	crackers
craft supplies	haircuts	movie passes

**FREE GIFT BOUTIQUE**  
(to pick out gifts for their family)

**OPERATION: Flour Sack Mission...Sack It to 'EM**

Help veterans take their health care into their own hands. Through the VA App Store, they can explore dozens of apps created to help Veterans manage their physical and mental wellness and connect with their VA care team.

Learn more and download the apps by visiting the [VA App Store](#).



## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK - April 19-25, 2026

Visit the National website: [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) and find several forms/certificates to recognize your **Hospital volunteers !!**

- Graphic of VFW Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer Service Pins;
- Application for Hospital Service Pin & Bar Guards (Aux Members Only)  
Every local hospital chairman is encouraged to recognize those dedicated hospital volunteers by requesting service pins for hospital volunteer hours  
**Note:** volunteer hours are NOT limited to only VA facilities. Hours CAN be accumulated in ANY hospital, medical facility.
- Application for Sponsored Volunteer Pins (For Non-Members)
- Application for VFW Auxiliary Recruiting Charm
- Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Certificate Option 1
- Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Certificate Option 2

**VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT** materials can be found on KS VFW Auxiliary website: [vfwauxks.org/hospital](http://vfwauxks.org/hospital)  
Utilize the Hospital Recruitment poster found in the August 2025 Hospital Sunflower Express article.

National Volunteer Week is about more than just saying ‘thank you’—it’s an opportunity to motivate others to take action. Celebrating the generosity of volunteers creates excitement around serving, encouraging others to join in and make a difference. This also ensures that our volunteers are seen appreciated and not made to feel taken for granted.

A few benefits of recognizing our volunteers:

- **Increase volunteer retention.** When volunteers feel truly valued, they’re more likely to stay involved. Show that their time and effort make a real difference. While volunteers aren’t in service for the recognition, a little acknowledgment can go a long way.
- **Attract new volunteers.** If you know how to appreciate volunteers, you can bet it will inspire others to get involved. As a bonus, when volunteers feel appreciated, they’re more likely to advocate for your organization and attract even more support.
- **Strengthen community bonds.** People don’t know who to thank if they never meet the volunteers behind the scenes. Dedicating a week to recognition brings the community together and grows a true sense of gratitude for all that your volunteers do.

### WAYS TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS

- Personalized appreciation; Events & celebrations; Gifts & tokens of gratitude; Public recognition

## **REMEMBER THE C’S ... <CARDS < CHALLENGES < CONTESTS... REPORT IT !!!**

<CARDS – Each month send card(s) to hospitalized veterans in the medical facility(ies) of your choice.

< CHALLENGE – Recipe for any variation of a Grilled Cheese Sandwich served to veterans in a medical facility setting.

**NEW**

Deadline May 01, 2026 (Submit recipe on back of/attached to Dept Happiness from Home form)

<CONTESTS – Enter the Hospital Contests. Deadline March 31, 2026

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Match the **QUIRKY** song title to it’s artist. Deadline March 31, 2026.

District # \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| _____ 1. Sic ‘Em on a Chicken                                      | <b>A.</b> Chumbawamba                  |
| _____ 2. You’re the Reason Our Kids are So Ugly                    | <b>B.</b> Loretta Lynn & Conway Twitty |
| _____ 3. Captain Goatcabin’s Balancing Stallions                   | <b>C.</b> Elvis Costello               |
| _____ 4. Let’s Be Naughty (and Save Santa the Trip)                | <b>D.</b> Joe DiPietro                 |
| _____ 5. Everybody’s Got Something to Hide Except Me and My Monkey | <b>E.</b> Aaron Wilburn                |
| _____ 6. I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change                    | <b>F.</b> Roger Miller                 |
| _____ 7. Tubthumping   | <b>G.</b> Zac Brown Band               |
| _____ 8. You Can’t Roller Skate in a Buffalo Herd                  | <b>H.</b> Gary Allan                   |
| _____ 9. Put Your Big Toe in the Milk of Human Kindness            | <b>I.</b> Humble Pie                   |
| _____ 10. If My Nose Was Running Money (I’d Blow It All On You)    | <b>J.</b> The Beatles                  |