

KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY

2025-2026 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – September 2025



Find more inspirational occasions to spread **SUNSHINE** to our hospitalized veterans at: holidayscalendar.com

September:

12 – National Day of Encouragement
14- National Coloring Day
17 - Citizenship/Constitution Day
18 – Rice Krispie Treat Day
24- National Women's Health & Fitness Day
29 – National Coffee Day
VFW Day
30 – National Love People Day



October:

World Mental Health Month
01- National Homemade Cookies Day
05-11 – Emergency Nurses Week
13 – US Navy formed (1775)
17 - National Mammography Day
21 – National Apple Day
25 – Make a Difference Day
28 – National First Responders Day

National Day of Encouragement, observed on **September 12**, is a day of love and kindness. It reminds us that a simple word can give someone the boost that they might desperately be seeking. A small act of encouragement could be the spark that changes someone's life. To praise and encourage someone is a practice worth doing, no matter what day of the year it is.

October 28th, National First Responders Day is designed to honor all the brave men and women whom we call upon during an emergency. The day is to provide opportunities to do something nice for these brave souls and to recognize first responders and to advocate on their behalf to ensure that they have the funding they need to do their jobs effectively.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, RECOGNITION & SUPPORT

Volunteering is a profound way to give back to your community and make a positive difference in the lives of others. The hours contributed by volunteers provide great benefits to medical facilities, not only because the labor of volunteers cost very little, but because volunteers play an important role in enhancing the quality of patient care and reducing staff workload. Hospitals and care centers are constantly in need of volunteers who can provide assistance and compassion to patients, residents, and healthcare professionals.

A common misconception is that volunteering is only for those retired or not employed. In reality, volunteering is beneficial to people in all walks of life, providing skills and experiences that are valuable in many areas. While volunteers can provide invaluable support, they are not replacement for trained medical professionals; and while having medical knowledge can be beneficial, it is not a prerequisite for a volunteer role. Compassion, willingness to help and a positive attitude are more important.

Print (from the KS VFWA website) and hand out the *Value of Volunteerism* or *Benefits of Volunteerism* pamphlets along with a promotional item or two (pencils, flashlights, etc) at your next event to assist in recruiting Hospital volunteers. Recognize Hospital Volunteers by presenting them with a Certificate of Recognition available from the National website: vfwauxiliary.org
Malta Member Resources/ Hospital / Volunteer Awards

PTSD & WOMEN VETERANS

Women veterans are more likely to experience traumatic events such as sexual assault and intimate partner violence, which are associated with high risk for developing PTSD. Women have a lifetime PTSD prevalence rate of 9.7%, compared to 3.6% in men. PTSD is also more common among female veterans (13 out of 100, or 13%) versus male veterans (6 out of 100, or 6%). More than 80% of women veterans report experiencing PTSD. As more women serve in the military, the rates of PTSD in women veterans continue to keep pace with male statistics.

Hospital Chairman can partner with the Veterans & Family Support chairman to raise awareness of the symptoms of and help for PTSD. Print and hang the PTSD available on the KS VFW Auxiliary website, vfwauxks.org, under the Hospital tab /printables. For more information, visit www.ptsd.va.gov

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." – Leo Buscaglia

Legislative advocacy outside the hospital walls affects patient care inside the hospital walls !

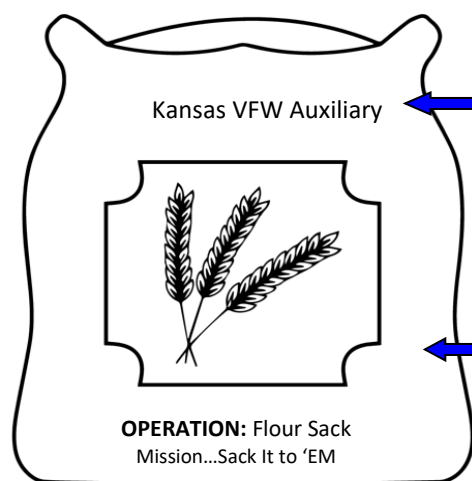
Auxiliary Hospital and Legislative Chairmen consider collaborating to assist members in advocating for veterans healthcare benefits and provide opportunities for members/others to assist hospitalized veterans with voter registration, voting/absentee ballot requests and contacting elected officials on matters important to them.

Key Bills in Congress supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary:

[H.R. 2605](#), *Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act*, to create a five-year pilot program for VA to provide grants to nonprofit organizations to furnish eligible veterans with service dogs and veterinary insurance.
[H.R. 740/S. 275](#), *Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025*, to improve the delivery of VA community care and address coordination needs within VA's Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program;
[H.R. 784/S.784](#), *Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act*, to expand and makes permanent the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) grant program that provides transportation options to veterans for medical purposes.
[S. 1245](#), *Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2025*, to improve the VA disability claims process and health care access for survivors of military sexual trauma; and other purposes.
[S.1320](#), *Servicewomen and Veterans Menopause Research Act*, to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health.

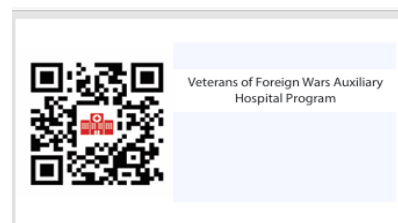
WHAT'S IN YOUR SACK ?

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



Suggestions.....

reading glasses
jackets
plaster molds
watches
birdwatching supplies
haircuts
MP3 headphones
popcorn
leather crafts
ENCOURAGEMENT
weighted blankets
insulated mugs
magazine subscriptions
pens & notepads
socks
Foldology
chicken dinner
???? - Use your imagination



The National website has a hospital program business card template that you can fill in and print. Hand out to members and others who are interested in finding out more about the VFW Auxiliary Hospital program.

National Award for Auxiliaries

Most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).

See National website for details.
vfwauxiliary.org

"Soaring Above For Our Veterans"
Department President, David Huddleston



"From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free,"
National President, Lois Callahan



REMEMBER THE C'S <CARDS < CHALLENGES < CONTESTS

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

Print, sign and send a Birthday or Thinking of you card available under Hospital tab/printables at vfwauxks.org

< CHALLENGE – Recipe for any variation of apple pie served to veterans in a medical facility setting.. . . .Report it!!

Deadline Feb. 28, 2026 (Submit recipe on back of/attached to Dept Happiness from Home form)

<CONTESTS – Enter the Hospital Contests..... Report it !!!