



# KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY 2024-2025 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – November 2024

Last month's lyrics question was:  
It's A Sunshine Day  
by the Brady

**\*\*Send Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Birthday, or other occasion cards for the November Card Shower ... Plan and complete a project for We Got Your Backside 2.0...Did you remember to report a Hospital project by October 31? DO IT NOW !!!**

Pick a day, any day, to spread some **SUNFLOWER SUNSHINE** and share Small Joys and Blessings with our Hospitalized Veterans !!!

A few ideas to get you started.....(use last years observances calendar as a guideline for celebrations this year

### November:

- 01 - National Brush Day
- 03- National Sandwich Day
- 10 – National Vanilla Cupcake Day
- 11- Veterans Day**
- 16 – Fast Food Day
- 19- Gettysburg Address (1863)
- 21- World Hello Day
- 24-Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day
- 28- Thanksgiving**
- 29 – National Square Dancing Day



### December:

- Bingo Birthday Month**
- 01-National Eat a Red Apple Day
- 03- Giving Tuesday
- 04 – National Sock Day
- 13-National Guard Birthday
- 15-Bill of Rights Day
- 20 – Games Day
- 21 – National Flashlight Day
- 25- Christmas Day**
- 31-New Years Eve

I'm walking on sunshine (Wow!)  
I'm walking on sunshine (Wow!)  
I'm walking on sunshine (Wow!)  
And don't it feel good  
Hey, alright now  
**(Can you guess the group that sang these lyrics ?)**

**1. Growing your own vegetables or herbs.** Having your own garden, allotment, or even mini windowsill garden feels so amazing! Growing and eating your own veg, fruit, and herbs helps you feel self-sufficient and capable, and they're always even more delicious because you grew them yourself.

**2. Cookies that are perfectly soft in the middle.** Goey, melty chocolatey goodness in the middle of a cookie can make even the worst days better. Well-made cookies and pastries are some of the most delicious simple pleasures in life.

**3. Completing a jigsaw puzzle.** Slotting that last piece into the jigsaw you've been working on is really satisfying. Not only do you have a completed puzzle, you've got the knowledge that you stuck at something and saw it to the end.

## HONORS ESCORT (FINAL SALUTE)

Veterans answered our nation's call, surrendering their civilian constitutional protections so that we may live free. They have experienced combat, deployment, and many of the stresses that come with military life. They deserve our respect and gratitude at the time of death, not just on Veterans Day. A Final Salute ceremony (also called **Honors Escort** or Honor Walk) takes place when a veteran who dies in the hospital or nursing home is transported on the gurney from the location of their passing to the funeral home vehicle or the morgue. Staff, family members, visitors, and other veterans silently line the hallways from the veteran's room to the health care facility exit and pay their respects to the deceased veteran. A Final Salute is a quiet, yet profound and powerful way for care teams to ensure that the deceased veteran does not leave alone. The Final Salute aligns with the mission of the VA: To fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the people who are America's veterans. While some VA and community health care facilities honor veterans at the time of death, others have yet to implement a Honors Escort/Final Salute program.<sup>2</sup> How can we ensure that veterans at the time of death receive a hero's Final Salute?

**VFW Auxiliaries are encouraged to talk with facilities in their area and encourage them in establishing an Honors Escort program. Print the brochure off of the Dept website and present to the administrators in a medical facility in your community.**

## The Kansas Veterans Home, Winfield, KS

The Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH) opened in 2000 and is located on 148-acres in Winfield, Kansas. The Kansas Veterans' Home military flag plazas greet its residents and visitors, and the buildings and nursing neighborhoods are named after Medal of Honor recipients. The Kansas Veterans' Home includes: Private and semi-private rooms; Bird Aviary; Library/Video room; Recreation center and fitness room; 24-hour security systems and grounds patrol; 48 bed assisted living (domiciliary) neighborhood; 77 bed long-term care; 20 bed special care for alzheimer and related dementia and offers a wide range of services including:

- Dietary Services - Nutritious meals individualized to meet each resident needs
- Social Services & Activities including:
  - Cable TV and internet connected computers,
  - Social opportunities with other Veterans
  - Weekly and monthly outings for residents
- Restorative Care & Psychological Services
- Physical & Occupational Therapy
- Transportation - To and from local health care providers including the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wichita

## Kansas Soldiers' Home, Ft. Dodge, KS

The Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH) is situated in Fort Dodge, Ford County, Kansas, approximately five miles east of Dodge City on Highway 400. Established in 1865, Fort Dodge is the oldest permanent settlement in this region of Kansas. Initially commissioned as a U.S. Army post to safeguard travelers along the Santa Fe Trail, it served as a vital supply and rest stop for traders and bison hunters. The fort spans 752 acres and is located 152 miles from the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. The first Independence Day celebration at the Home, July 4, 1890, was a memorable event. More than 200 Dodge City residents attended a special celebration at the home. Both Confederate and Union residents and veterans were recognized. Long-term nursing care was added in 1998. A variety of services are offered to the residents and in some cases to staff and visitors. These include:

- A library/museum/gift shop
- Long-term nursing care (56 beds) and domiciliary care (33 beds) independent living (56 single and double room houses)
- A fitness room available for use by residents and staff
- Cottages for use by the more self-sustaining residents
- Two cemeteries
- A US Veteran Affairs funded community based outpatient clinic
- Various arts, crafts and gardening activities for residents<sup>[6]</sup>

**Admissions:** Priority for admission to the Veterans Homes will first be given to Veterans lacking sufficient means of support. Among these individuals, priority will be determined by the severity of medical care needed and their ability to access and afford care or housing within the community. While residency in Kansas is not a requirement for applicants, preference will be given to Kansas residents for admission to the Homes.

**Eligibility:** Veterans applying for admission must have completed active federal service, defined as full-time service in the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marines, U.S. Space Force, or U.S. Coast Guard. The discharge from this period of active federal service must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. Veterans seeking admission must meet the following criteria:

- Meet criteria established by the VA for Veterans status
- Require 24-hour skilled nursing health care services, including documentation from a physician
- Not appear on any sex offender registry
- Not have a criminal history including conviction or guilty plea in any state of a felony violation
- The Veteran's condition must be such that the Home has the resources to care for him/her
- On a space available basis, Spouses, surviving spouses and Gold Star Parents may qualify for admission