

**VFW AUXILIARY
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER 2024 SUNFLOWER EXPRESS**

This month we are focusing on Suicide Awareness Month and VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Program. As part of the **Health Care portion of the VFW Priority Goals**, we must ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares. Congress, VA (Veterans Administration) and DOD (Department of Defense) must reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide to zero, and also strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. **Dial 988 then press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.**

This is one of the projects that our Department President, Marsha Larosh, is promoting this year. Please make a donation to Suicide Awareness, mail to Department Treasurer, Jeanette Cox and ear-mark as such. Thank you.

As part of the **Education, Employment, Transition Assistance portion of the VFW Priority Goals**, the VFW is offering the 2024/2025 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship which is scheduled from October 2024 to March 2025. The deadline for applications is September 15, 2024. The application may be accessed at <https://studentveterans.org/programs-events/vfw-sa-legislative-fellowship/>

A reminder, that we will be electing State and U.S. Representatives and Senators, and a National President this year. We need to know what they are going to do for our Military, Veterans and their families. As always, **BE AN ADVOCATE, BE INFORMED BE ENGAGED.** Be an Advocate for those who can not speak for themselves; Be Informed about the Priority Goals and what the VFW is doing on Capitol Hill for our Veterans; and then Be Engaged by attending town halls and meeting our legislators to see what they are doing or will be doing for our Veterans.

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