



April 2026  
Veterans & Family Support

I want to start by thanking all of you for your hard work this past program year! As we start our new reporting year in April, which is the Month of the Military Child and recognizes & celebrates the sacrifices that they make, I would like to share about the Adopt a Unit portion of the Veterans & Family Support program. Adopting a unit puts us in direct contact with soldiers in our communities and provides us with many ways to serve them and their families (including their children). Below I have listed more information about Adopt a Unit.

\*Adopting a unit is FREE and your Auxiliary and the Unit both get a nice certificate from National to display. It's REPORTABLE as a Veterans & Family Support item and the only "requirement" to keep your adoption is that your Auxiliary does something for the Unit ONCE A YEAR. You complete a very easy online report form for National. It's much easier than our Department forms!

\*What you do for them is only limited by your imagination! In Ottawa we adopted the Army National Guard unit and we have made desserts and taken them for their drill weekend....so easy to do and you can just take them and drop them off. Take other "snack" items: chips, dips, etc. Take snack items that they can just grab and go with: individual packaged items like cheese or peanut butter crackers, small chip bags, etc. Apply for a MAP Grant for their Holiday family meal (also very easy to do). During Operation Bottom Cover, we asked if there were soldiers that had babies in diapers and we purchased diapers and took to them. As I said, whatever your Auxiliary wants to do. Even just sending them Valentine cards would be a morale booster. Have local school children make "Thank you" pictures to take to them for Veteran's Day or Armed Services Day. They have a "fund" at their local Armory to benefit the soldiers and if all you want to do is contribute a small amount (\$25) once a year, that's great too!

\*It gives your Auxiliary an opportunity to "connect" with soldiers on a personal level. You can actually SEE them and they are most likely YOUR neighbors and live in your community....they are KANSAS soldiers! Many of them are eligible veterans for the VFW and their families are eligible for Auxiliary membership! An opportunity to get new members!!!

\*They are VERY open to letting Auxiliary members come in and speak to them about membership, what we do, and the programs available to them through the VFW & Auxiliary. It's a great way to promote our Scholarship program since many have children in our local schools.

\*If they are able, they will even participate in some of our events. I know the Ottawa Armory has had one of their big trucks drive in the Veteran's Day Parade and their recruiter has gone to local high schools and spoken at events.

I can't say enough about how rewarding it is to have this "connection" with our local Kansas soldiers! We are always contributing to soldiers throughout the U.S. but these are OUR soldiers! Need help locating a Unit to adopt? I can do that! I will gladly get on the phone and walk anyone that wants to adopt a Unit through the whole process!

I've mentioned a few other of our programs that adopting a unit could cover. Can you spot them? Send your answers to me by the end of April for a drawing for a small gift.

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