



Veterans and Family Support August, 2025

The first of Ambassador Annie's main focal points is Veterans Assistance Programs and one of the biggest ways that we can support our Veterans and their family members is to ensure that they are aware of the aid and services available to them. See www.va.gov or www.vfw.org

The NATIONAL Award for Veterans & Family Support this year is as follows:

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community. To include veterans job fairs, unit homecomings, mental health-related stand downs, etc.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community.

There are many ways we can accomplish the goal to assist our veterans. A few are:

- Making sure that EVERY veteran knows the Veterans Crisis Line number. **988, press 1**

Get the information out (newspaper, newsletter, posters in the Post, *purchase one of the Department's Joint Project PTSD Awareness T-shirts and wear it!*)

- Adopt a Unit. This is such an easy way to directly assist our current service members (and their families). See the Adopt-A-Unit FAQ under the Veterans & Family Support Program on our Department website, or give me a call/text/email for more suggestions not listed there on ways to show your support.
- Remember to support their families, they've made sacrifices too. Veterans need to know their families will be taken care of.
- Most importantly: listen. The best way to know their needs is to hear what those needs are. And don't be afraid to ask how we can help.

Also, just a reminder that August 7th is the date that we observe National Purple Heart Day. It's a time to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. If you know a surviving Purple Heart recipient, take the time to acknowledge them.

I want to again express how much I appreciate all that y'all are doing in support of our veterans! I've had so many great reports already. Keep up the good work and don't hesitate to contact me if I can help you in any way.

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