



## **Veterans & Family Support**

December 2025

*"A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!"*

As the calendar year comes to a close and with only four months left in our program year, I thought it would be good to share some reminders of our goals for the Veterans and Family Support program. National Ambassador, Annie O'Conner, asked that we focus on three main areas: VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs, Veterans' Mental Health Awareness, and Veteran and Spouses Employment.

One tangible way to participate in Veterans Assistance is by supporting deployed soldiers. We have a unit of 120 Kansas National Guard soldiers out of Manhattan that are currently deployed to Kuwait. What a great opportunity to support soldiers from our own state and several Auxiliaries have already contributed items or made donations to send them care packages. Thank you! If you want to participate in this, just contact me and I'll give you information on how to do so.

For Veterans' Mental Health Awareness our Department President, David Huddleston, is doing a joint project with Department of Kansas VFW Commander, Charlie Cravens, on PTSD Awareness. Let's cover two things at once with this. Meet Ambassador Annie's goal in this area AND help Department President David meet his goal by making a donation to this joint project. Be sure to send a note with the donation to Jeanette Cox indicating that it's for the Kansas Auxiliary Joint Project for PTSD Awareness.

The third goal is doable but a little more difficult unless you know a veteran or military spouse that is transitioning due to a move or separation from the military. Offer to do childcare if they need it to attend an interview. Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming job fairs or job skills seminars and post them to your Facebook page or in your newsletters. We need to be ready to assist them if we're able. Other ideas? Let's share them!

And remember to check out the available National Awards and Department Awards for the Veterans and Family Support program. These can be found on the Department website [www.vfwauxks.org](http://www.vfwauxks.org) under Programs>Veterans and Family Support>Awards. You must submit the form and information to me to be eligible for the award. I've already seen several reports from Auxiliaries that would qualify for an award so get those submissions in!

Vickie Burggraf 4493 Louisiana Rd. Ottawa, KS 66067 785-766-4517 v\_burggraf@hotmail.com

P.S.

No Sunflower Express for January

All reports need to be in no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Keep up the great work!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!