

Veterans & Family Support

April is the Month of the Military Child, a time to recognize and celebrate the sacrifices that military children make. Purple is the official color so I encourage you to wear purple throughout the month in support and to spread awareness. Make sure to wear purple to your monthly meeting and take a picture so you can post on social media to spread the word! Use the hashtag #PurpleUp and people nationwide will see your pictures. More than 1.6 million children are faced with unique challenges and experiences due to their parents being deployed. Often times active-duty military families move every 2-3 years which can put a lot of strain on everyone. You can find more info at militarychild.org/MOMC_Toolkit-or-defense.gov/Spotlights/Month-of-the-Military-Child/. The Kansas City organization 'Operation Frontline Families' (formerly Caregivers on the Homefront) has a teen/tween mentoring program available for children of military and veteran caregivers.

Sometimes we get in the habit of hearing a bunch of acronyms year after year in meetings and reports but might not really know what they mean. In a previous Sunflower Express I talked about MAP, Unmet Needs, and Sport Clips Help-a-Hero, so now it's time for another important one. So...

Do you know what NVS is?

NVS stands for National Veterans Service, a program that the VFW set up to help navigate confusing or difficult claims with the VA. It is a nationwide network made up of over 2,000 VFW Accredited Service Officers that are there to help veterans and their families. They are highly trained and trusted individuals that help free of charge and try to prevent anyone one getting caught in a scam or with someone that will charge a boatload of money. They work on a case-by-case basis so you get personalized assistance to your situation. You can get help with disability, pension, rehabilitation, employment programs and more. Well versed in the current laws, regulations, and legislation, VFW Accredited Officers have recouped more than \$13 billion in compensation and pension on behalf of veterans and eligible family members in 2023. That number grows every year! Information can be found on the VFW website and on MALTA under "Member Resources"

Thank you for all the reports that you have turned in for the second half of the Auxiliary Year, you guys have put in a lot of time and hard work to help Veterans and their families.

April 5th is Gold Star Spouses Day, similar to Gold Star Mother's and Family Day, this day is to honor the spouses of a fallen soldier.

April 14th is the Air Force Reserve Birthday, established in 1948.

April 23rd is the Army Reserve Birthday, established in 1908.

May 1st is Loyalty Day. A day to promote patriotism, celebrate the freedom we have as Americans, and celebrate our loyalty to our great country.

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