



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT SEPTEMBER, 2024

The Veterans and Family Support program provides care and support for our Nation's Hero's and their families. It is at the very heart of our organization. The main focal points for this program this year are as follows:

1. National Veterans Service Suicide Prevention
2. Childcare for active-duty service members
3. Veterans and Military Support Programs

NATIONAL VETERAN AND MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION

- Call 1-800-MYVA411 to access all VA Departments
- Call 988 and Press !
- Chat online at veteranscrisisline.net or
- Send a Text message to 838255

Confidential support is available 24 hours a day/7days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hearing impaired individuals is available. TIP: Add the Veterans Crisis Line number in your cell phone for easy referral.

CHILD CARE FOR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

- Provide babysitting for a few hours each week
- Provide diapers and wipes for babies and toddlers

This special focus is on those veteran's families that are trying to support themselves and their children

VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

1. National Veterans Service (NVS)

NVS is a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans and their families navigate the VA system. They help with disability compensation, rehab and educational programs, pension and death benefits, employment and training and quality health care.

a. To donate to this fund, mail your check to

VFW Nat'l Headquarters ATTN: NVS 406W 34th Street 11th Floor KCMO 64111

2. Military Assistance Program (MAP Funds)

MAP helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units by providing financial assistance for moral boosting, send offs, homecomings, and get togethers. If you choose to participate in Adopt-A-Unit, MAP can help. It also keeps the care packages circulating by covering the postage.

3. Unmet Needs

Unmet Needs provides grants up to \$1,500.00 to bridge the gap to make a mortgage payment, rent, home repairs, car repairs, utility costs, food and clothing in a crisis

4. Sports Clips

- Help a Hero Scholarship

1. Awards up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans or service members to help complete their educational goals.

To donate to any of these programs including suicide prevention, mail your check to:

VFW Nat'l Headqtrers Attn: Vets & Military Sup. 406 W 34th Street 9th Floor KCMO 64111

NATIONAL PROGRAM AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES:

1. Most outstanding activity and /or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families.
 - a. Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March

31, 2025 for judging. The Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

DEPARTMENT PROGRAM AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES:

Citation and monetary award to the Auxiliary that donates the most to the National President's Special Project- *OPERATION: BOTTOM COVER*

10-100	Members
101-200	Members
201-300	Members
301-400	Members
400 and Up	Members

Donations may be made by sending your check to Department Treasurer, Jeanette Cox, earmarked NP Special Project or made directly on MALTA and forwarding a copy of the receipt to Department Treasurer, Jeanette Cox.

Mike McCandless
Veterans & Family Support Chairman
422 Winn Rd
Salina, KS 67401
785-819-3128
mikevfw@yahoo.com



CARE PACKAGES FOR NAT'L GUARD SOLDIERS

I recently reached out to the Soldier & Family Readiness Specialist with the KS National Guard Support Services here in Salina. I was told there are approximately 700 soldiers deployed overseas and they would love to receive some items from home.

Here is their WISH LIST:

Sunscreen
Prepackaged Cookies
Snacks
Hair Ties
Combs
Brushes
Shaving Cream
Hand Sanitizer
Beef Jerky

If you would like to bring a little home to those overseas, we will need to get the packages sent **before October 1st**. You may get your items to me and I will mail them or your Auxiliary may send your packages direct to the following address:

CPT Taran Holt
TF REAPER HHC 1-635th AR
APO AE 09330

CPT Taran Holt will distribute the items once they are received.



Now that the baby has been delivered –
How are you going to make sure everything is covered?

National President Brenda Bryant's 2024-2025 Special Project

OPERATION BOTTOM COVER

We have discovered there is a need for diapers for the babies of our military and our veterans. So, we are partnering with Operation Showers of Appreciation. They distribute diapers all over the world to active-duty military and veteran families. They have been in business for more than 15 years.

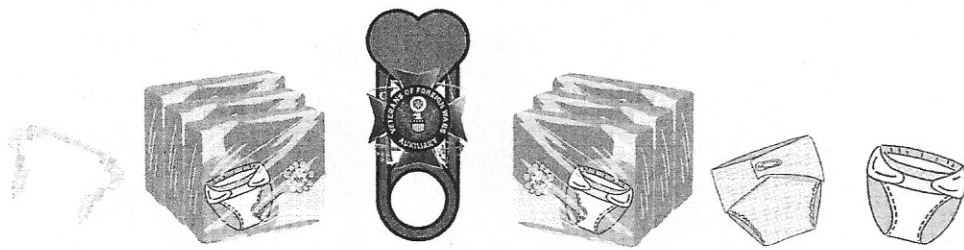
Did you know that in Japan it costs twice as much for active-duty service members to purchase diapers then it does in the states?

How can your Auxiliary help?

1. Gift money to Operation Bottom Cover through MALTA under gifts – National President's Special Project or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked NP Special Project.
2. Coordinate with and make a gift of diapers directly to a military base. If you don't have a contact at the base, reach out to your VFW VMS Chairman, maybe they can help.
3. Host a diaper giveaway for veteran or military families at your Post.

How can your Auxiliary directly help a family?

1. Share this link to Operation Showers of Appreciation with members: www.osoamil.org. Operation Showers of Appreciation (OSOAmil) is an organization whose mission it is to honor and support military and veterans by providing assistance in everyday life, including addressing needs through their Diaper Assistance Program.
2. Your Auxiliary can donate directly to a veteran or military family with this need in your area.
3. Don't forget the wipes. Maybe you can challenge the VFW for every box of diapers you deliver, they can throw in the wipes. Let's work together.



WISH LIST FOR THE SRU UNIT AT FT. RILEY, KS

CLEANING SUPPLIES:

Dish Soap
Laundry Detergent-Preferably Pods
Clorox All Purpose Cleaner
Lysol Spray
Scrubbing Bubbles for the Bathroom
Comet
Dryer Softner Sheets
Liquid Hand Soap

SOFT GOODS:

Sheets-Twin Size

Top and Bottom
Bath Towels
Hand Towels
Kitchen Towels
Dish Cloths
Pillows
Blankets

PAPER GOODS:

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Paper Plates-All Sizes
Paper Bowls
Packaged Plastic Silverware
Napkins

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS:

For BOTH Men and Women

Deodorant
Bar Soap
Shaving Cream
Razors
Combs/Brushes
Tooth Paste/Brushes
Shampoo & Conditioner
(Full Size containers, NOT the travel size, please)
Tampax, sanitary napkins

If you would like to send your packages directly to the SRU Unit at Ft Riley here is the address:

SRU Unit
Attn: Ginny Rushing
670 Warrior Road
Ft. Riley, KS 66442

