



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

The National Veterans Service or NVS as it is commonly referred to, provides critical service to Veterans transitioning to civilian life and their families. NVS consists of a nationwide network of VFW Service Officers who are experts in dealing with the claims process and helping the Veteran cut through the red tape. VFW Service Officers are the key to recovering earned benefits and compensation for our Veterans. These Officers are trained to help Veterans develop their case by reviewing and applying current law. They will also assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pensions and death benefits, and employment and training programs. Furthermore, when it comes time to request a hearing before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals, they will not hesitate to present oral arguments if needed.

VFW Service Officer Responsibilities include:

- Offer research and advice to those Veterans who wish to handle their own claims.
- Assist those who are filing original claims for compensation and/or pension with the Department of Veterans Affairs and complete the required VA forms on behalf of the claimant
- Assist in reopening claims for service connected disabilities and complete the required VA forms.
- Follow up on the status of claims filed with the VA Regional Office.
- File Notice of Disagreement with the VA Regional Office if the Veteran believes the decision made was incorrect.
- Review statements of the case from the VA regarding denial of claims and assist with the preparation of appeals. File the appeals with the local VA Regional Office for forwarding to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington D.C.

- Complete VA forms other than original claims
- Answer/Research telephone inquiries regarding medical, death/burial and other miscellaneous benefits.

This is a service that the VFW is proud to offer **FREE OF CHARGE** to anyone requesting help with the claims process. They do not have to be a member, or a relative of a member of the VFW or Auxiliary to receive this service.

I have a couple of challenges:

1. Let me know that your Auxiliary can identify where in your community or state a VFW Accredited Service Officer works.
2. How does your Auxiliary support those VFW Accredited Service Officers?

Please drop me a quick email if you can answer the above questions. I would appreciate hearing from each Auxiliary by the end of February .

Couple of Reminders:

Donations for VFS programs should be made to the National VFW

1. Send a copy of the check to Jeanette Cox and she will add it to the year end report
 2. If you write one check to Veterans & Family Support it will cover all the above programs and that way you do not have to write separate checks.
- REMEMBER!! There is NO Longer an Operation Uplink, so don't donate to it

Please be sure to report all the donations for this program that are made by your Auxiliary on the reports that you send me. Remember there is a Department Award for each Auxiliary that donates \$50.00 or more to one of the following: MAP, Nat'l Vet Service, Unmet Needs, Suicide Prevention or Sports Clips.

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