



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT MARCH

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU) in Ft. Riley and the care packages that have been sent to Kuwait. The success of these two programs is because of all of you.

I have attached a new request list for the SRU in Ft. Riley. The unit looks forward to receiving any items donated and definitely puts things to good use. Should you decide to continue donating, please bring your items to your District meetings in April and I will make arrangements to get them picked up.

There are several programs that have been developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and they are available to the public. They were prepared to inform and educate caregivers of Veterans, and provide guidance to them in working with the VA health care system. The three programs are: Support And Family Education (SAFE), Operation Enduring Families, and TBI Family Caregiver Curriculum.

1. SAFE is an 18 session curriculum to support adults who care for a Veteran living with chronic mental illness or PTSD,
2. Operation Enduring Families: Information and Support for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and Their Families, is an extension of the SAFE program. It is a 5 session family education and support program for Veterans who have recently returned from combat (Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom)
3. TBI Family Caregiver curriculum was developed to help families of a Veteran returning from combat in OEF or OIF with a traumatic brain injury.

It is not too late for your Auxiliary to make a donation to receive a Department Citation.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

1. Citation to each Auxiliary that donates \$50.00 or more to one of the following programs;
 - a. National Veterans Service (NVS)
 - b. Military Assistance Program (MAP)
 - c. Unmet Needs
 - d. Sports Clips-Help A Hero Scholarship
 - e. Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention

2. Citation to each Auxiliary that donates \$10.00 or more to EACH of the programs
 - a. National Veterans Service (NVS)
 - b. Military Assistance Program (MAP)
 - c. Unmet Needs
 - d. Sports Clips-Help A Hero Scholarship
 - e. Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention

****Please Note**** these donations must be shown on your monthly reports to be eligible for **either citation**.

3. Citation to any Auxiliary that hosts or participates in an activity or event that increases awareness of or helps Homeless Veterans
4. Citation to any Auxiliary that hosts an event or activity that supports or recognizes family caregivers for Veterans
5. Citation to any Auxiliary that hosts an educational event or activity that increases awareness of Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

NATIONAL AWARDS:

1. Most outstanding activity and or event that supports veteran military and family caregivers.
Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and or event that supports veterans, military and family caregivers. Criteria and entry form required is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries are to send entry form to their Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman by March 31st, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 conferences with the most outstanding activity and or event that supports veteran, military and family caregivers. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix Arizona.

2. Most outstanding activity and or event that increases awareness of homeless veterans.
Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and or event to increase awareness of homeless veterans. Criteria and entry form required is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries are to send the entry form to their Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman by March 31st, 2023. The citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 conferences with the most outstanding activity and or event that increases awareness of homeless veterans. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix Arizona.

Mike McCandless
422 Winn Rd
Salina, KS 67401

mikevfw@yahoo.com

785-819-3128