

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

March 2026

By 2nd Vice – Lynda Griffin



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) program is committed to promoting, supporting, and providing services that enhance the lives of veterans and their families. It, along with the other of the Four Pillars, is among the premier programs of our organization.

Ways by which this commitment can be met are numerous and are not limited to activities within VA Medical Centers. Acts of service directed toward veterans and their families in the community setting are included under VA&R.

Activities may include but are not limited to:

- Volunteering at VA facilities
- Providing assistance to veterans in the community
- Conducting *Buddy Checks*
- Promoting awareness of the *Be the One* suicide prevention mission
- Donating hygiene, leisure, and comfort items to VA facilities according to their “wish lists”. Be aware of what each VA Medical Center will accept, as it varies.
- Raising awareness about homeless veterans, many of whom have children.
- Participating in *Christmas Gift Shop* and *Christmas wrap* events.
- Supporting *Veterans Creative Arts Festivals*
- Providing support to caregivers of veterans, family members, and survivors
- Collaborating with organizations that support our mission, such as *Wreaths Across America*, *Honor Flight, Inc.*, and the *Military and Veteran Caregiver Network*.
- Participating in a stand down event
- Sending cards to hospitalized and homebound veterans for holidays
- Contributing to *National Salute to Veterans Week* events

The Department VA&R program has a special project each year. Units are urged to learn about, contribute to, and support that project.

Reminders:

Members can assist veterans without ever leaving their own home. Crocheting, knitting, and sewing items for veterans are important contributions. Donations of items should always be handled through the VAMC Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE) office, formerly known as the Voluntary Service office, accompanied by a letter from the unit listing the donated items.

Resources

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM DOWNLOADS:

[VA&R One Page Quick Reference Guide](#)

[Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service \(VAVS\) Program Brochure](#)

FACT SHEETS

[Wreaths Across America](#)

[Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#)

[Quilts of Valor](#)

[Military & Veteran Caregiver Network \(MVCN\)](#)

[Honor Flight Network](#)

BE THE ONE

[Be The One Brochure – Local](#)

[Be The One Brochure – National](#)

[BT1 Mini Trifold Brochure](#)

[BT1 – Card 1](#)

[BT1 – Card 2](#)

[BT1 – Card 3](#)

[BT1 – Card 4](#)

Let us all remember the ALA Mission Statement in everything we do!

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.