



WE ARE
thankful
FOR YOUR
SERVICE

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

Department of Wisconsin
Veterans & Family Support
NOVEMBER, 2021
www.vfwaux.org

National FAMILY Caregivers Month is observed each November while Month of MILITARY Caregivers is observed in May. We as members of the VFWA Department of Wisconsin need to bring attention to caregivers and the important role they play in the lives of our veterans. Caregivers are often unsung heroes. They care for the ones who served, care for the ones who were left at home or loved our veterans after they returned. Think of ways to support and recognize these individuals not only in the month of November, but every month of every year.

- Be a listening ear. Visit with them in-person, by phone or electronically
- Mail a thinking of you card or flowers
- Bring or have delivered a meal or gift card to a local eatery



So many ways to show your support. Caregivers often lose themselves in the care of others and stress levels rise, many times unnoticed, until it is overwhelming. NOW is the time to contribute time and/or money to programs and organizations that benefit family caregivers of veterans. Look into options in your area and choose those that best fit your Auxiliary's Veterans & Family Support program.

Homelessness, why do Veterans Experience Homelessness? Veterans are not unlike civilians when it comes to homelessness. They must navigate the lack of affordable housing and economic hardship that everyone faces in addition to the challenges brought on by multiple and extended deployments.

Research indicates that those who served in the late Vietnam and post-Vietnam eras are at the greatest risk of becoming homeless. Veterans from more recent wars and conflicts are also affected. Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans often face invisible wounds of war, including traumatic brain injury disorder, both of which correlate with homelessness.

Significant progress has been made in housing our nations homeless veterans. This is possible by connecting them with rapid re-housing, through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, and permanent supportive housing through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program.

On a single night in January 2020, 37,252 veterans were experiencing homelessness
22,048 veterans were sheltered, while 15,204 veterans were unsheltered
Most homeless veterans were without children: only two percent were homeless as part of a family.
91.3 percent were men, while 8.4 percent (3,126 veterans) were women

Homeless Veterans account for approximately 10.6% of the homeless population. Approximately 67,000 of the 630,000 homeless individuals are veterans. An average of 1 in every 10 homeless individuals are veterans. Assistance to help can be achieved through:

- Helping/donating to an initiative in your area such as Stand Downs
- Veterans Administration
- Local veteran housing/assistance program
- Faith Based programs

The Veteran and Family Support Program is about giving back to those who gave for us, both the veteran and the family of the veteran.

“Don't FUDGE on Care for Veterans” as we continue “Soaring Above & Beyond”

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