VMS 2022 - 2023

Greetings Teammates, my name is Rick Bower and I am the new Veterans & Military Support Department Program Chairman. Prior to this appointment I really did not have a good understanding what the VMS Program entailed.  That said, I am sure many of you do not either.  The VMS program oversees the Military Assistance Program (MAP), the Adopt-a-Unit Program, Unmet Needs program and the VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”.  We also oversee the donations which go to the VMS programs which provide the monetary support for most of these programs.  One of the other ways we earn money for these programs is by selling pins which you will see shortly at one of your district meetings.

Adopt-a-Unit Application

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/adoptaunitapplication>

MAP Grant Application

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/mapgrantapplication>

            In addition to the above programs VMS also two certificate programs.

The VFW National Headquarters has the Legacy Citation of Merit available. Order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our Service Members Killed In Action. Recognize, celebrate, and honor them with your post, auxiliary, and Gold Star Families Step-by-step instructions on how to order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our service members killed in action.

<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Veterans-and-Military-Support/Reports/Legacy-Citation-of-Merit-Instructions.pdf?v=1&d=20220318T155511Z&la=en>

The VFW National Headquarters Military Working Dog Recognition Program has a new citation available. Order the Military Working/War Dog Citation to recognize their service, bravery, and devotion to their fellow troops. Step-by-step instructions on how to order the Military Working War Dog citation to recognize their service, bravery and devotion to their fellow troops.

<https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/us_mwd_recognition_citation>

            Lastly, and most importantly we need to share how we are taking care of Veterans.  Our Motto “No One Does More For Veterans” needs to be seen by all.  We need to report all the things we are doing for Active, Guard, Reserve and Retired Vets.  The Department of PA has not submitted a report to National in years.  Attached are examples and blank forms for districts to submit to me monthly.  We need to highlight what we are doing for vets, weather it is doing a horror guard for a funeral, a homeless Vet’s stand down, a Golf tournament that supports Vets or a Welcome home ceremony.

Please submit your reports to me NLT the 25th of each month.  The .PDF forms are fillable

Questions: please contact me @ RBower0007@Gmail.com

Below is an example of two states that reported.  I know we can easily outperform them.

* South Carolina Chairman – During July 2022, the Department of SC hosted and participated in a total of 40 events – activities that benefited over 500 veterans/Post 12102 provided transportation for a veteran to attend his VA appointments and grocery store visit. Post 6091 visited Marine veteran on hospice and assisted the family with his benefits package. Post 9539 donated $500 to assist disabled veteran with purchase of handicap van and wheelchair ramp at the veteran’s home/Provided District Commanders with intent moving forward as the new Chair takes over the program and the expectations for Department members, Posts and Districts.
* North Carolina Chairman Attended 108th ADA Back to School event Post 6018 sponsored the food for this event and school supply donation/attended 82d CAB Organizations Day VFW sponsored the food for this event. Got to talk to the soldiers and their families about VFW Programs. Post 6018 received a certificate/back to school preparation at Post 6018 packed 200 bags with school supplies/Attended 264th CSSB Organizational Day, talked about VFW Programs, display table, signed up new members/attended back to School event at Post 6018. gave out 200 bags filled with supplies and lunch to kids and family members/attended Dept of NC Flying Squadron training talked about VFW programs /Peach Festival with Post 1142 and Buddy Poppy Drive talked about VMS programs and donations/ Helped veterans with electricity payment and car repairs.

In your Service,

Rick

Frederick (Rick) Bower

Dept. of PA VMS Chairman

See next page for forms and sample

 