**Veterans & Family Support Program**

Paula Havasi, Department Chairman

10 Van Lane, Beaver, PA 15009

412-671-5721 / phavasi@live.com

The Veterans & Family Support Program is our mission to provide support and care to our nation’s heroes and their family members. Please keep in our hearts our Auxiliary members who are Veteran’s family members and may also be caregivers.

Do you know a member who is a fulltime caregiver? It’s a possibility that this member may be entitled to assistance from Veteran Affairs (VA.) “The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) is for eligible Veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975 or on or after September 11, 2001. This program provides resources, education, support, a financial stipend, health insurance (if eligible) and beneficiary travel (if eligible.) For more information visit caregiver.va.gov or talk to a Service Officer.

**VFW National Veterans Service** provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who helps veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve at no cost. These Service Officers assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, in filing claims for disability compensation, rehabilitation and educational programs, pension and death benefits and employment and training programs. NVS also works to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care.

Donations to NVS can be made online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select National Veterans Service, click “Contribute.”

Donations by mail send check to:

VFW National Headquarters

Attn: NVS

406 W. 34th Street, 11th Floor

Kansas City, MO 64111

**VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs** are programs initiated by the VFW to serve active-duty and recently discharged military. Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and the VFW “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship.”

1. **Military Assistance Program (MAP)** provides financial assistance for Posts, Districts and Departments to sponsor send-offs, homecomings and casual get-togethers. Posts and Auxiliaries can also receive assistance for Adopt-a-Unit and Family Readiness Group events. It also covers the postage cost for care packages. For guidelines to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW Veterans & Military Support office at 816-756-3390.
2. **Unmet Needs** can help family members when their loved ones are serving on foreign soil. Grants of up to $1,500 to a creditor can bridge the gap to make a mortgage or rent payment or to fund home and auto repairs, insurance, utility costs, food and clothing. Visit vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants to learn more.
3. **VFW “Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship Program** awards scholarships of up to $5,000 to qualifying veterans and service members to help them complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. Visit vfw.org/student-veterans-support to learn more.

**Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness** with the suicide rates continuing to grow every year, we need to make ourselves aware of the warning signs of suicide and help our heroes find the help and support they need. **The Veterans Crisis Line** connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available. Wear the **Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Prevention Pin** (may be purchased from the VFW Store) to make the public aware of the rates of suicides among veterans and military service members.

* Call 1-800-273-8255
* Chat online at veteranscrisisline.net, or
* Send a text message to 838255

**Supporting Homeless Veterans and their families:**

Participate in a Stand Down. For Information visit dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/Standdown

Va.gov/homeless/events

**Food banks.** Find a way to donate time and food for those with food insecurity.

**Homeless shelters or Veteran Villages**: Find your local shelters and or villages in your area and share resources for those in need.

For information:

National Coalition for homeless Veterans nchv.org

Help for homeless Veterans va.gov/homeless (877) 424-3838

This year we are introducing a “**Pennsylvania Smile Program**.” We are asking you to adopt a nursing facility with veterans, and for an hour a month provide the veterans and family members with music to boost their lives. This is a simple program that can bring much joy to their day. Simply take your smart phone, speaker, boom box, and laptop and create a music program that incorporates patriotic music, songs from their youth, music for the season or holiday. Have fun with this, be positive, be happy and be caring. Also, you can report this on your hospital year-end report. WIN/WIN.

**Mental Wellness Support and Resources -** About 22 veterans commit suicide each day. The VFW and VFW Auxiliary are committed to change the conversation and stigma surrounding mental health in the United States. Support your community and explore treatment options at the resources below:

* VFW Mental Wellness Campaign – vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness
* The Campaign to Change Direction – changedirection.org
* Give An Hour – giveanhour.org
* Patients Like Me – patientslikeme.com/join/vfw
* One Mine – onemind.org
* The Elizabeth Dole Foundation – elizabethdolefoundation.org
* Help Heal Veterans (Therapeutic Craft Kits) – healvets.org
* Veterans Voices Writing Project – veteransvoices.org

**Report Monthly by emailing or sending reports to Paula Havasi from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.**

**National Veterans & Family Support Awards for Auxiliaries**

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) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries are to send entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

\*Citation and $25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that support 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) available at vfwauiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries are to send entry form to their Department Chairman by March 31, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

\*Citation and $25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that increases awareness of homeless veterans. Winners will be announced and award presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Department Veterans & Family Support Awards and Citations**

1. A citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the most outstanding activity and/or event that supports veterans, military and families. (Must submit photo and/or description of activity.)
2. A Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the most outstanding activity and /or event that support veteran caregivers. (Must submit photo and /or description of activity.)
3. A citation to the District Chairman with the best promotion of the VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs. This includes Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, and Sport Clips Help a Hero Program. (Must submit photo and/or description of activity.)
4. A Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division sponsoring the best event for homeless veterans. (Must send description to Department Chairman.)
5. A Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the highest monetary donation and or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families.
6. A Citation to the top three Veteran & Family Support Auxiliary Chairmen with the best promotion of Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness. (Must send description and/or photos to Department Chairman.)
7. A Citation to the Auxiliary in each of the Membership Division with the most hours in the “Pennsylvania Smile Program.”

**“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”**

while we

**“Respect…Honor…Remember”**

**ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.**

**Veterans & Family Support**

2022-2023 Year-End Report

Paula Havasi, Department Chairman

10 Van Lane, Beaver, PA 15009

412-671-5721 / phavasi@live.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

Your District President must receive this report by April 7, 2023

Retain (1) copy for your Auxiliary records

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Veterans & Family Support materials/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary website? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
2. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, host/co-host with their VFW Post activities for any VFW Program listed below? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
* Disaster Relief
* Military Assistance (MAP)
* National Veterans Service (NVS)
* Unmet Needs
* Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.
1. Did your Auxiliary provide direct aid to veterans, service members and/or their families? (Example, meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.) Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
2. Approximate number of veterans, service members, and/or families assisted. #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Total monetary donations and or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families. $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Total number of hours spent in Nursing Facilities using the **“Pennsylvania** **Smile Program.”** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary President\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary Chairman\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

District#\_\_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_