

Veterans & Family Support



DIRECTOR

Kathy Schreiber

27813 County Road G36
Columbus Junction, IA
52738-8909

It's *Time for America's Military Heroes* is the perfect complement to the Veterans & Family Support Program. Focusing on the needs of veterans, active military, VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members and their families sets the parameters for a program designed to care, communicate and support these individuals. This program has been written to work in conjunction with core programs of the VFW and has four key areas: National Military Services, VFW National Home for Children, Buddy Poppy and our Ladies Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship, which benefit and define our Veterans & Family Support Program.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES

There are three main efforts of the National Military Service department: Military Assistance Program, *Operation Uplink*[™] and Unmet Needs. Each program provides its own focus of support for military service members and their families.

The Military Assistance Program (MAP) provides support for Post, District and Department interaction with the local military community bridging the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary to active-duty, Guard and Reserve military units. MAP offers grants to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries who participate in military unit functions such as sponsoring farewell and welcome home activities, Adopt-A-Unit and Family Readiness Group events. Another aspect of MAP is the Memorial Commendation for a service member killed in action. This commendation, intended to be presented by a VFW representative, is an example of the continued support this organization provides.

Operation Uplink[™] connects active-duty troops and hospitalized veterans with their families and

friends. These connections include both international and domestic phone cards and Free Call days, one scheduled for every month of the year, where troops can call home - at no charge - from Internet cafes throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. All card requests, which must include the unit designation, head count and a point of contact, are submitted through Department Chairmen.

Through Unmet Needs the VFW provides grants up to \$2,500 to eligible service members and their families facing a hardship due to deployment or military service. This grant is available to the five branches of service, as well as members of the Reserves and National Guard. With funding from corporate sponsors and individual donations, the VFW Foundation administers and promotes the Unmet Needs program. Eligibility criteria and expenses eligible for consideration of payment are listed on the VFW Web site along with a new application to accelerate processing.

Donations to help support these three programs should be earmarked for National Military Services. This will allow the VFW to designate the use of these funds where they are needed most. Information, applications and other documents for all three National Military Service programs can be downloaded at www.vfwdepartmentresources.org.

LADIES AUXILIARY CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

A primary objective of this Ladies Auxiliary is support to members and their families. Education is one of these goals. The Continuing Education Scholarship is available to members, their spouse or children who have reached 18 years of age to pursue a college degree or technical trade. One scholarship of \$1,000 will be given to a candidate from each of the four Ladies Auxiliary VFW Conferences. Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary for one year prior to application is required to qualify. The newly revised one-page application is available to download at www.ladiesauxvfw.org and must be received at National Headquarters by February 15, 2010. Prior winners are not eligible.

VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

The VFW National Home for Children, located on 629 acres in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, is the most unique community in the nation. Established in 1925, the National Home is a multi-faceted facility created to care for the developmental, social and spiritual needs of the children and families of the VFW and active military

personnel. A neighborhood of custom homes, service buildings and recreational land, the National Home stands as a tribute to the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members who have supported and continue to support the Home today through contributions.

The VFW National Home receives no government funding, so contributions are critical to maintain the programs and campus. The Ladies Auxiliary promotes funding through the Health & Happiness/Christmas Cheer Fund with a donation of 10 cents per member based on the Auxiliary June 30 membership quota. Other methods of giving include the Campbell's Labels for Education Program, the new Online Giving Option, Tribute Giving and Life Membership. For information on all funding options available for individual donors, refer to the National Home's Web site, www.vfwnationalhome.org, or call their toll-free number, (800) 424-8360. Our commitment to the mission of the National Home remains: to provide opportunities for growth and development for children, youth and families of members of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary, while serving as a living memorial to all veterans.

BUDDY POPPY

The Buddy Poppy, an integral part of the VFW community since 1922, is the official memorial flower representing the blood shed by American service members and reiterates that their sacrifices will not be forgotten. Today, as in the past, men and women veterans in VA hospitals, domiciliaries and state veterans homes assemble poppies and are paid by the VFW. The proceeds from a Buddy Poppy distribution are placed in the Ladies Auxiliary Relief Fund and used solely for veterans' welfare or the well-being of their needy dependents or the orphans of veterans. A listing of accepted expenditures from this Relief Fund can be found in the Ladies Auxiliary Booklet of Instruction.

A successful Buddy Poppy Campaign requires planning and enthusiasm. Request a form to order an adequate supply of poppies from your Department Headquarters. (Poppies not distributed can include corsages, centerpieces and an entry for the National Buddy Poppy Display Contest.) Choose your campaign dates, publicize the event and select your volunteers wisely. Their enthusiasm and smiles create a friendly atmosphere which projects a good image; winning combinations. The *It's About Service - How to Have a Successful Program Year 2009-10 Programs Guide* has tips for a successful campaign and contest details. It is available on CD or can be downloaded at www.vfw.org.

New in 2009, the Buddy Poppy Program offered an additional opportunity to distribute poppies. Along with Memorial Day and Veterans Day, March 3 was deemed the All American Star Spangled Bonus Day. This Buddy Poppy date marks the anniversary of VFW's victory in sealing "The Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem. The addition of an official day for a Buddy Poppy Campaign reinforces the two-fold importance of the Buddy Poppy that has not changed since its inception: our continued commitment to "veterans helping veterans" and the VFW's motto of "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

SPECIAL RESOURCES:

Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine

VFW Magazine

It's About Service – 2009-10 Programs Guide

www.vfw.org

National Military Services

www.vfwdepartmentresources.org

VFW National Home for Children

www.vfwnationalhome.org or (800) 424-8360

Department of Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov (Federal Benefits of Veterans and Rehabilitation Special Events brochure)

Department of Labor (Veterans Employment and Training Services)

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

www.nchv.org or VET-HELP at (800) 838-4357

Local and Department Service Officers

AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:

For each program award, unless otherwise noted, \$25 will go to the first-place Department and keepsake to the Chairman; second-place Department will receive \$15 and a citation to the Department Chairman.

1. *Citation to each Department Chairman with at least 80% participation by Auxiliaries.
2. Award to the Department with the best promotion of the National Military Services programs.
3. Award to the Department with the most creative fundraising idea for the National Military Services programs.
4. Award to the Department with the best promotion of the Continuing Education Scholarships.
5. Award to the Department with the best promotion of the Buddy Poppy Program.

6. Award to the Department with the best overall promotion of the Veterans & Family Support Program.
7. Outstanding Performance Award in each Membership Group based on the criteria on Page 1.

SPECIAL AWARDS FOR DONATIONS:

1. *Citation to Auxiliary, District, Department or Junior Girls Unit that donates \$100 or more to National Military Services. This is a one-time donation.
2. *Citation to Auxiliary that contributes 25 cents or more per member to the Health & Happiness/ Christmas Cheer Fund based on June 30, 2009, membership.

NOTE: The check for Special Award No. 1 should be earmarked "National Military Services."

The check for Special Award No. 2 should be earmarked "Health & Happiness/Christmas Cheer Fund."

Checks should be made payable to Ladies Auxiliary VFW and mailed to:
Ladies Auxiliary VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Checks sent to the VFW rather than the Ladies Auxiliary VFW will not receive the citation.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

1. *Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to assist an Auxiliary member, her spouse, son or daughter with continuing education. One winner from each Conference will be selected from applications.

AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:

"It's Time for America's Military Heroes" Plate to the National Chairman based on quality and timeliness of material.

***NOTE: Winners will be published in the Year-End Officers' & Directors' Report and awards will be mailed to the 2009-2010 Department President for distribution.**

CONFERENCE CHAIRMEN



BIG TEN STATES
 Celia Davis
 PO Box 621
 Lees Summit, MO
 64063-0621



EASTERN STATES
 Sally Gagnon
 419 North Lake Rd.
 Forestport, NY
 13338-4109



SOUTHERN STATES
 Kathryn Roman
 1562 Jeffords Street
 Clearwater, FL
 33756-4409



WESTERN STATES
 Kim Sloan
 326 East Burrows St.
 Tucson, AZ
 85704-5713