

HOSPITAL/VAVS



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VFW Auxiliary members have been volunteering in hospitals and medical facilities since the organization's inception in 1914. The Hospital Program was one of the first nationally adopted Programs for the organization.

The Hospital Program has two parts:

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

VFW Auxiliary establishes relationships with:

- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Veteran Homes
- VA Facilities
- Other medical facilities

VAVS PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs created the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Now called

CDCE Center for Development and Civic Engagement for organizations to serve in the VA medical facilities

Please read the **VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program** and the **VAVS Participation Guide** Copies are available at www.vfauxiliary.org/resources.

SPECIAL PROJECT

CELEBRATE NON-TRADITIONAL DAYS

We always do a great job for Christmas and Valentine's Day. But let's have FUN and celebrate the little-known special days of the year. **Did you Know:**

- July 5th is National Graham Cracker Day
- July 7th is World Chocolate Day
- July 20th is National Lollipop Day

You can make cards and attach pre-packaged little snacks or candy. Get your youth involved to help decorate them. This a great way to entertain our hospitalized Veterans.

Check out this link www.nationaldaycalendar.com

HOSPITAL PLEDGE

This pledge is an important fundraiser for the VAVS Program. The Pledge is \$.50 per member and based on your membership from June 30, 2023. It is due in the month of August. Make check payable to the VFW Auxiliary Department of Texas mail to P.O. Box 15285 Austin, Texas 78761-5285. Earmark check "**HOSPITAL PLEDGE**".

HONORS ESCORT

Honors Escort is a brief ceremonial procession for Veterans at their final hour of death in an institutionalized setting. It honors military Veterans who have unselfishly served our country.

Please reach out to your VA Facility, Veterans Home and Nursing Homes in your area to see if they have an Honors Escort Program. If not, help them implement a program for them. You can also purchase casket flags through the VFW Store and donate them to Nursing Homes and other Veteran facilities.

WOMENS VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

Women Veterans are the fastest growing group within our Veterans population and the VA is working towards meeting their health care needs. **June 12th** is Women Veterans Day. This date is not recognized nationally, but it is recognized by a number of states, either through legislation or proclamation, and organizations. Let's help Women Veterans get the Health care they deserve. Learn more at www.va.gov/womenvet.

STATEWIDE PROJECTS

1. NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

February is the month to have a special event. Pay tribute and express our appreciation.

It can be held at a VA Hospital, Nursing Homes, Veteran Home or any Non- VA Facility.

Have your youth help make Valentine cards and paper flowers, Be creative and have **FUN**.

2. SUICIDE AWARENESS AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

September 10th is observed for Worldwide Suicide Awareness Day. Know the five warning signs.

To get flyers, social media content, newsletter articles and more

Download and share materials at www.veterancrisisline.net/spread-the-word.com

3. VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND SUPPORT

New volunteers are needed every day across the country. Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in health care. They create a friendly and caring atmosphere no matter where they Volunteer.

Here are some tips for good recruiting and retention of Volunteers:

1. Monthly sign-up sheets for regular events
2. Emails and phone calls for special projects
3. Be specific on duties of the Volunteers
4. Recognize your Volunteers for their work
5. Share your success by reporting.

AWARDS

1. Plaque in each Membership Division for the **BEST OVERALL PROMOTION** of 3 State-wide Projects. Citation to 2nd & 3rd

2. Plaque to one **OUTSTANDING HOSPITALIZED VOLUNTEER** Citation to 2nd & 3rd

3. Plaque to one **OUTSTANDING YOUTH VOLUNTEER** Citation to 2nd & 3rd

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”

“Banding Together for Our Veterans”