



## HOSPITAL/VAVS

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Our Veterans have been blessed by the most precious gift possible – the sacrifice of your time. I am grateful for everything you have achieved to make a difference in the lives of our veterans. Your time is the most valuable contribution you can give and I want to personally Thank You for serving our Veterans, their families and communities, the VFW Auxiliary Department of Texas, Districts and Auxiliaries.

*You are the missing piece* to change the thinking and the mind set about how we honor the service of our Veterans and their families as well as recognize the hard work and dedication of our deserving Texas Auxiliaries!

*You are the missing piece* to new beginnings, a positive attitude and a renewed passion for serving our Veterans.

*We are the missing piece* for good communication that pieces us all together to make it happen!

Please take the time to read the **VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program Guide**, which includes the **VAVS Participation Guide**. It explains who can volunteer, where you can volunteer, rules, regulations, awards and reporting. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

For more information and other topics on the Hospital & VAVS programs, download the **Hospital Program Guide** at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources)

The continued response to help the United States of America's Veteran heroes during this global pandemic has been and continues to be overwhelming but rewarding. All donations will be accepted under revised protocols during the response to COVID-19. All donations will be processed through the Office of Voluntary Service in the individual VA Hospital, Living Center or Clinic in accordance with VHA Directive 4721, to ensure consistent tracking and acknowledgement of COVID-19 donations. More about the VA's COVID-19 Response Plan can be found at: [www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus).

### **Hospital Pledge**

This pledge is an important fundraiser for the VAVS Program. The hospital pledge is **\$50** per member. It is **due in August 2021** and is based on your membership as of June 30, 2021. Please ensure the check is earmarked **Hospital Pledge** and send your check to **Department Treasurer PO Box 15285 Austin, TX 78761**.

### **Relief Fund**

To assist with the Hospital Pledge, the Relief Fund can be utilized. The Relief Fund is available to meet ALL obligations or gifts to the VFW National Home for Children, hospital work, Veterans and Family Support work and to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces and to comfort their survivors. Pg. 21 Yellow Pages By-Laws Book.

### **Honors Escort Program**

While some VA Facilities have an Honors Escort Program that is part of the end-of-life protocol to ensure the veteran's service, accomplishments and sacrifices are not forgotten as they are laid to rest, others do not. Reach out to your Volunteer Services Coordinator at your local VA facility and non-VA facilities and find out if they have an Honors Escort Program and if not, implement a program. This is an opportunity to provide outreach education and educate staff on how to pay respect to veterans who depart while in their care. Share what the VA does and give examples of how the Honors Escort Program can be modified for their facility.

## **Veterans Health Care**

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, providing health care to more than 9 million veterans at more than 1,255 facilities, including 170 VA Medical Centers and 1,074 outpatient clinics. The **MISSION Act** gives veterans greater access to health care and expands benefits for caregivers. Learn more at [missionact.va.gov](http://missionact.va.gov).

## **Veterans Voices Writing Project**

The Mission of the Veterans Voices Writing Project is to enable military veterans to experience solace and satisfaction through a writing program. Veterans' Voices Writing Project is devoted exclusively to the writings of military veterans. Only with continued support of subscriptions \$35 yearly, donations, and sponsorships, can VVWP send complimentary copies of *Veterans' Voices* to all VA Medical Centers and to writing aides and other volunteers who assist veterans with writing. Writers receive a complimentary copy when their work appears in the magazine. [www.VeteransVoices.org](http://www.VeteransVoices.org)

## **HQ'S Blogs**

Want to learn even more about the VFW Auxiliary National Programs and read news and ideas from our National Ambassadors with helpful ways to support veteran patients?

Subscribe to the VFW Auxiliary Programs Blog page [www.vfwauxiliary.org/blog](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/blog)

## **Office of Research & Development**

[www.vfwauxiliary.org/Hospital](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/Hospital)

[www.research.va.gov/topics](http://www.research.va.gov/topics)

For 90 years, the Veterans Affairs Research and Development program has been improving Veterans' lives. VA Research is unique in that it is the only program in the United States focused entirely on conducting research to address the full spectrum of Veterans' health needs. Today, VA Research has [five overarching strategic priorities](#): increasing Veterans' access to high-quality clinical trials; increasing the real-world impact of VA research; putting VA data to work for Veterans; actively promoting diversity, equity and inclusion; and building community through VA research. VA Research Advances is produced annually and offers brief summaries of more than 30 key research areas within

## **Statewide Projects**

### **1. Women Veterans Healthcare Program**

**June 12 Women Veteran's Day: SHE SERVED, SHE SACRIFICED, SHE DESERVES**

Did you know that June 12 is designated as Women Veterans Day? The first Women Veterans Day was held June 12, 2018, marking the 70th anniversary of the groundbreaking Women's Armed Services Integration Act, signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948.

**Organize an event for June 12 to honor Women Veterans Day.** Report with pictures sent to the Department Hospital Chairman.

Women Veterans are the fastest growing group of veterans and are still the most underserved within the VA Health Care System. Our women veterans deserve more. We can help the VA's programs for women veterans with a campaign of awareness & advocacy. Women Veterans Health Care addresses the needs of women veterans and strives to ensure that timely, equitable, high-quality and comprehensive health care services are provided in a sensitive and safe environment at VA health facilities nationwide.

Some underutilized services are maternity services. Services available and donation needs vary by location. Check out what your region has to offer its women veterans and then get involved. Learn more at [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet)

## 2. National Salute to Veteran Patients

The week of February 14<sup>th</sup> is our opportunity to say “thank you” to an extra special group of men and women. The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Week is to pay tribute and express appreciation to our Veterans, increase community awareness of the VA medical center’s role, and to encourage citizens to become involved as volunteers. Since the **National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans** falls during the week of Valentine’s Day, this is a perfect time to promote **Valentine’s for Veterans**. Take Valentine’s cards to your Veterans, **host an event ON SITE** and let them know how much we care. Recruit Youth Groups to hand make Valentine, Birthday & Christmas cards. Auxiliaries can also **sponsor/conduct an event or activity in ANY VA and/or non-VA medical facility** such as State Veteran Nursing Homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, local hospitals, Rehab facilities & don’t forget our homebound Veterans receiving Hospice, chemotherapy, dialysis or home health care. Everyone loves to receive a card or a treat bag on a special day or maybe just on a Tuesday.

## 3. Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support

**Host a Volunteer Recognition Event, Present Hospital and VAVS Volunteer Appreciation Certificates and present Hospital Volunteer Service Pins as a way to show appreciation to all volunteers for their dedication to serving our Veterans.**

New volunteers are needed every day across the country. Volunteers help create a friendly and caring atmosphere no matter where they volunteer. Through community volunteer recruitment is a prime time to bring in new volunteers by illustrating the benefits of volunteering and making a positive difference in the lives of veterans. It takes a large number of volunteers to keep veterans’ facilities running smoothly and to provide the proper care our veterans deserve.

### Awards

1. Plaque in each Membership Division for **Best Overall Promotion of all 3 state projects**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. Plaque to Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the **Most Outstanding Implementation of Outreach Education of the Honors Escort Program**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
3. Plaque to one **Outstanding Hospital Volunteer**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
4. Plaque to one **Outstanding Youth Volunteer and/or Youth Group**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
5. Plaque to one **Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

\*Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2022

### National Awards for Members (Entry Form Required – available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources))

1. Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Division who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.
2. “Hospitals Volunteer Recruiter of the Year” plague award to one member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.
3. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions.  
Member entries are due to Department Hospital Chairman by **March 31, 2022**. The Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the National Hospital Ambassador by April 30, 2022 for judging.

### National Awards For Auxiliaries

1. Most Outstanding Implementation of Outreach Education of the Honors Escort Program.

\*Citations to every Auxiliary that provides outreach education about the Honors Escort Program. **Criteria and entry form (required) available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources)**. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Hospital Chairman by **March 31, 2022**.

The Department Hospital Chairman must send a copy of all submitted entry forms to National Headquarters by April 30, 2022. 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 implementation of outreach education of the Honors Escort Program.

The Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the National Hospital Ambassador by April 30, 2022 for judging.

### **Hospital Program Compared to VAVS Program**

**Hospital Program** provides needs and establishes relationships with:

Hospitals - Nursing homes - Veterans homes - VA facilities

Other medical facilities where veterans are served

### **How VFW Auxiliary members participate:**

\*Participate in projects voted on and accepted by the Auxiliary.

\*Make items such as cards, lap robes, hats, quilts, etc.

\*Fundraise for the Department's Hospital fund.

\*Encourage volunteers in ALL medical facilities.

\*Promote projects and volunteer opportunities to all members and the community.

\*Present Hospital Volunteer Appreciation certificates.

\*Order VFW Auxiliary Hospital Pins for total hours earned from all facilities.

\*Hours are earned in **ALL** VA and non-VA facilities.

**VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) Program** communicates needs. The VAVS Program was created by the Department of Veteran's Affairs for organizations to serve in VA medical facilities.

### **How VFW Auxiliary members participate:**

\*Fulfill the needs of the VA facility and at the direction of the VA facility's Voluntary Service Program Manager.

\*Utilize knowledge and skills.

\*Offer opportunities for learning.

\*Contribute to the needs of the VA facility.

\*Hours are **ONLY** earned in VA facilities.

### **Regularly Scheduled volunteers:**

Comply with VAVS Guidelines

Participate on a regularly scheduled basis.

### **Occasional volunteers:**

Do not meet the requirements of RS volunteers.

Volunteer with a group or organization occasionally.

### **Sponsored volunteers:**

Non-members of the VFW Auxiliary who wish to serve at a VA or non-VA facilities

### **Youth volunteers:**

Under the age of 18 and require written parental consent or guardian approval to participate

**Hospital Program hours earn VFW Auxiliary Awards!**

**VAVS Program hours earn VAVS AND VFW Auxiliary Awards!**

**TOTAL HOURS FROM BOTH PROGRAMS EQUAL OUR REPORTED HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER HOURS**

**"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"**

**"Soaring Above & Beyond"**

**COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER**  
**(CLC) FACILITY NAME**

**Michael E. DeBakey VAMC**  
2002 Holcombe Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77030  
(713) 791-1414

**Thomas E. Creek VAMC**  
6010 Amarillo Blvd. West  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
(806) 355-9703

**George O'Brien, Jr VAMC**  
300 Veterans Blvd  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
(800) 472-1365

**Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center**  
1201 E 9<sup>th</sup> St  
Bonham, TX 75418  
(903) 583-2111

**VA North Texas Health Care System - Dallas**  
4500 Lancaster Rd  
Dallas, TX 75216  
(214) 742-8387

**South Texas VHCS – Kerrville**  
3600 Memorial Blvd  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
(866) 487-1653

**Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital**  
7400 Merton Minter  
San Antonio, TX 78229  
(210) 617-5300

**Olin E. Teague Medical Center**  
1901 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Temple, TX 76504  
(254) 778-4811

**Doris Miller Dept of Veterans Affairs Medical Center**  
4800 Memorial Drive  
Waco, TX 76711  
(254) 752-6581

**STATE VETERANS NURSING HOME**

**William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home**  
1424 MLK Jr. Lane  
Temple, Texas 76504  
254-791-8280

**Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home**  
200 Veterans Drive  
Floresville, Texas 78114  
830-216-9456

**Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home**  
9650 Kenworthy Street  
El Paso, Texas 79924  
915-751-0967

**Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home**  
1020 Tascosa Road  
Amarillo, Texas 79124  
806-322-8387

**Alfredo Gonzalez Texas State Veterans Home**  
310 E. Yuma Avenue  
McAllen, Texas 78503  
956-682-4224

**Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home**  
1809 North Highway 87  
Big Spring, Texas 79720  
432-268-8387

**Clyde W. Cospers Texas State Veterans Home**  
1300 Seven Oak Road  
Bonham, Texas 75418  
903-640-8387

**Watkins-Logan-Garrison Texas State Veterans Home**  
11466 Honor Lane  
Tyler, Texas 75708  
903-617-6150

**Richard A. Anderson Texas State Veterans Home**  
14041 Cottingham St.  
Houston, Texas 77048  
346-293-9600