



Veterans and Family Support has been called “The Heart of Our Organization”, and rightfully so!

This program focuses on helping to provide the resources, materials and support not only for our veterans, but for their families as well—and this is literally our reason for being a part of this awesome organization! I know that all of you have already been volunteering your hard work and dedication to serving our veterans, active-duty military and their families. And each act, no matter how big or small, makes a difference in the lives of those who have served to protect OUR country and OUR freedoms, along with the family members who “kept the home fires burning” as they did so.

I know all our dedicated Auxiliary members across the state will continue this year to volunteer time, energy, and resources to help meet veterans’ immediate needs. We also know that events/activities such as: Stand Downs that focus on the health and well-being of our veterans (including homeless and near-homeless vets), Post-based and community food drives to meet the concerns of food insecurities that may exist in your area, and putting out the word and donating time to supporting mental health and suicide prevention programs are just a few of the many ways we can provide direct aid to our veterans and families.

This year, I have a HUGE favor to ask of all of our Auxiliary V&FS Chairmen who do so much for our vets. PLEASE join with me and be a part of my Veterans and Family Support CAMERA CREW—Document, document, document with PHOTOS and send them to me with a short caption so I can credit your Auxiliary for the great work that they do!! I plan to compile these photos (and videos if you like to show off even MORE) throughout the year, with the goal of putting together a presentation for our attendees at the end-of-the-year Department of New Mexico Convention.

To help you get inspired to be a part of this project, I will be awarding a special PRIZE to EACH and EVERY Chairman who sends at least ONE photo or video of their Auxiliary members supporting vets and families to ME at my email or physical address below. And one Auxiliary will be chosen to receive a special “ACADEMY AWARD” for “Best Documentary Efforts” at our June Convention. I am excited to see what you send, and I intend to nag (encourage) you incessantly, and possibly nab publicly posted photos, (with your permission, of course....and please inform and get permission to use photos of your Post and community members, as well). These efforts can also lead to a NATIONAL AWARD, which I will go into more detail about in my next promotional.

There are so many opportunities to help veterans and their families this year. Work with your members to continue educating them and the community regarding veterans’ services. And let’s really focus on doing everything we can to put “our boots on the ground” in support of our veterans and their families-- because they are our priority, and they deserve our best efforts! Yes, one person can make a tremendous difference, and we appreciate you all. But as a team we can do so much more to change lives. Remember, “A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!” Thank you for all you do!!

Yours in Service,

Marsha Short

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