

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

## VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM 2024 - 2025

August 2024



Department President – Renee King  
Department Secretary – Jeanette Garcia

National Ambassador – Evan Smiley  
Department Chair – Mary Sanchez

What is veteran and family support, someone may ask? Can we help any veteran or any family?

Answer is yes to the veteran and maybe to the family! Let me explain - the way I see it, a Veteran is the person that served our nation in a uniform, whether during peace time or at war. Since I belong to the Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary my time will be spend helping those veterans that served time during a war or action and those that are Active-duty now more than the others veterans.

How this program works is you talk to a veteran, I can usually tell if they are VFW potential member or active duty by just talking to them. I tell them who I am and how I am an Auxiliary member of the VFW. Then I ask if they are aware of any veteran benefits programs that they might qualify for under the VA. Benefits like VA loans, unmet need (helps pay bills), military assistant program, schooling and much more. It might be in their best interest just to check it out or talk to a service officer for available program through the VFW post near them. Tell them that benefits have been added through recent legislation and they may be eligible to receive these benefits “it does not hurt to check”. Then I turn them over to my counterpart for Veterans and Military support program.

Now that was a Veteran what about family services (support). As Auxiliary member I concentrate on the “Family” of the Veteran or active duty service person. Does this family need a ride, food, diaper, child care, adult day care, and a caregiver to help at home? What is their mental or physical condition, or do they need a break and someone to talk to or just listen. Help with items like this goes a long way in helping our families.

Continue to report under this program even if it is in increments of 30 minutes collectively it goes a long way and adds up quickly.

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