

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Veterans and family support is one of the oldest and most familiar programs we have in the VFW Auxiliary. Since our focus is to be veterans this is the one that is reported on most. I am looking forward to seeing many reports and projects that will be completed this year. As mask mandates are going away and vaccinations are on the uprise we are once again permitted to meet and have functions.

The emphasis this year will focus on many of the same items, National Veterans Service, Military Support Program, Military Assistance Programs and Unmet Needs. Two items I would like to see more emphasis on is the Veterans Suicide Prevention and the Caregiver Support Programs that are available. The fact that after years of raising awareness to the fact that 20 veterans per day commit suicide the numbers are not dwindling. Let us as Auxiliary members continue to push for awareness and prevention.

This past year the VA has begun assisting caregivers with a stipend that allows them to stay at home and take care of their veterans. The purpose is to help with lost wages and also with respite care for those performing 24/7 care. National Family Caregivers Month is during the month of November, let us honor those that take on this task. Caregivers rarely complain, occasionally they need a willing ear, or just a chance to go to the store, salon, or movie without worrying about what is going on at home.

Let us continue with the excellent work done this past year and keep South Carolina moving ahead.

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