

# VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

## *Banding Together for Our Veterans*



### UNITY

For those who remember; my theme during my year as Department President was, Unity. So, I find it appropriate that not only has our National Ambassador chosen this for her program year, but as a Department we have come together in unity to help V&FS Chair Linda Theroux through her time of convalescence. I've accepted this position until she is well again and can resume her duties. I hope I can make Linda proud.



### PRIMARY POINTS

**1 – Veterans and Military Support Programs and National Veterans Service:** Make our veterans and their families the service available to them. Financial assistance for things such as mortgage/rent and utilities. Help is also available for vehicle expenses or food and clothing. Pair them up with an accredited Service Officer to speed up this benefits process. It is just as important to help with this if they are currently deployed or recently returned.



National Veterans Service (NVS) has over 300 Service Officers nationwide. They have recovered over \$1 billion in VA benefits for veterans and their families. These Officers provide this service even if the veteran is not VFW eligible. This includes timely and quality VA health care.



The Military Assistance (MAP), Unmet Needs and Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship serve active-duty and recently discharged veterans under the Veterans and Military Support Programs (VMS).

MAP provides financial assistance to Posts, Districts and Departments sponsoring troop send-offs, homecomings and casual get-togethers. Care package mailing costs can also be covered.

Unmet Needs can offer grants up to \$1,500 to our deployed soldiers for rent, mortgage, auto repairs, insurance payments, utility costs, food and clothing.

Sports Clips has been gifting scholarships awards up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans.



**2 - Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness:** “One veteran lost to suicide is one too many!” Please know the signs and keep a card in your wallet/purse for quick distribution. Join other organizations; such as, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation or Give an Hour. Look these up on Google, these are a plethora of information to type into.

## AWARDS

According to Linda’s August Promotional material a prize will be presented at the Mid-Winter Council meeting. Continuing with her wishes, I will offer a prize to the Auxiliary that sends to me the best suggestion to successfully address the issue of preventing or reduction veteran suicide. Your submissions need to be sent to me by Christmas day to qualify.

Now’s the time to think about the awards being offered to Auxiliaries from National.

- Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

Required entry form in MALTA Member Resources. Due to Dept. Chair by March 31, 2024.

- Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members and their families.

Required entry form in MALTA Member Resources. Due to Dept. Chair by March 31, 2024.

*Celeste Nicholas*

*Dept. Of VA Veterans & Family Support Asst. Chair*

*(603)393-3092 - text only*

*[union7663aux@gmail.com](mailto:union7663aux@gmail.com)*

*For Chairman Linda Theroux*