

Hospital Program General Bulletin # 4 - February 2025

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

I'd like to talk first about the visits we have made so far to the hospitals and veterans' homes. We have visited the Walla Walla VA hospital and veterans' home, the Vancouver hospital and home, American Lake VA hospital, Orting veteran's home, Retsil Veterans home and the Spokane VA Hospital and Veterans Home. The team consisted of President Sue Gregg, Commander Perry Taylor, VFW Surgeon Jason Paxton and, when available, Fred and Rose Green, the VAVS Representative for the facility, and me. We were often joined by District representatives and other VFW and Auxiliary members. The Seattle VA visit will be in February.

The program is only possible because of the monetary donations that we receive from the Auxiliary's hospital pledge, raffle tickets, the poppy pick game, and grab bags. The VAVS Representatives use this money to purchase everything from simple decorations, snacks for parties, blankets, clothing and socks, to popcorn machines and televisions.

Leads me to the perfect time to thank all the Auxiliaries who have already sent in their Hospital pledges. I will be sending out reminders around the first of February. Here is a big shout out to the following Districts for making 100% of their Hospital pledges.

District 2
District 6
District 7
District 9
District 11
District 16

Speaking of February, Valentine's Day is fast approaching. Please send Valentine cards to our Veterans in the VA Hospitals and Veterans Homes, and to any nursing home or private facility. One idea is to contact your local elementary school and ask if they would like to make cards or draw hearts and pictures for you to deliver. Addresses for VA facilities were all listed in my last bulletin. If you do that be sure the children do not have their last names on the artwork.

I want to mention the Year-end Report. I hope your hospital chairs are keeping track of the hours and projects you have been doing and a running total of any donations made. These hours include volunteering in any VA or non-VA medical facility.

Now, a few items from Paulette McCord, the National Hospital Ambassador's Promotion #3.

1. She wants to hear what we are doing; I keep her updated on that. She mentions that everything means so much, and this is true. Quoted from Paulette McCord, "Any day you do something for our veterans is a holiday. Maybe ice cream day, cookie day, popcorn day, or anything you would like to do. Just make it fun."
2. She also talks about volunteers and be sure to recognize them at the end of the year for all they do. Remember that a volunteer can also be a non-member of the VFW Auxiliary. And of course, as I have mentioned, keep track of those hours.

3. I am going to read exactly what she wrote about Honors Escort. To quote Paulette McCord, "Educate your Post members and your Auxiliary members about the Honors Escort. Some people do not know about this Program. Your VFW and Auxiliary members might want to participate. It is an opportunity for you to show high regard and reverence for the individual at the time of death. It is showing respect for the veteran and their family. See page 31 of the *2024-2025 National Program Book* for more information. "From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans," but, remember, it takes a "Little Ray of Sunshine" to make those branches grow. You are the sunshine! Thank you."

FINALLY, Last Reminder!

We serve ALL VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, and THEIR FAMILIES.

ANY VETERAN or SERVICE MEMBER at ANY facility, hospital, nursing home, or private home facility.

ALWAYS coordinate with the person/s at the facility before visiting, donating, or bringing items.

Mailings and hands free drop off at the door can be arranged.

REPORT ALL ACTIVITY!!! Keep track of hours, materials/items, monies donated on your report for the Hospital. As I said before, you will need this for your year-end report.