

Veterans and Family Support Chairman

Bulletin 4

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN Rose Green

Dear Members,

Appreciation for Support

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to those auxiliaries who have contributed by sending checks to the Department Secretary/Treasurer, Cindy Burkey, in support of Veterans & Military Support (VMS) and National Veterans Services (NVS). As of this bulletin, only Auxiliary #2289 and Auxiliary #10882 have made donations. There is plenty of time left to show your support- consider contributing to support Veterans Military Support or National Veterans Services by sending your checks and check summaries to the Department Treasurer, marking them as "other" and "VMS/NVS."

Current Donation Status

At present, post donations to this program total \$14,994.50, auxiliary donations amount to \$1,090.00, and other donations—such as those from individuals or corporations—stand at \$350.00. Washington posts have utilized 14 MAP Grant events, totaling \$10,890.00.

Impact of your Donations

Donations to the VMS fund are essential in supporting MAP Grants, the Help A Hero Scholarship, and providing financial assistance to military families.

Homeless Veterans Grant Program

The Department of Washington offers a grant to help HOMELESS VETERANS. This program is designed to fund projects led by Posts and Auxiliaries; it does not provide direct assistance to individuals. The grant application can be found on the post website under resources. Applicants should complete the form and send it to Todd Gruchalla, who will review and recommend approval or disapproval. The request is then forwarded to the Department Commander and QM. If approved, a check is issued to the Post or Auxiliary. The Homeless Veterans Grant is commonly used for Standdowns but may also be utilized for other projects supporting homeless veterans. To contact Todd Gruchalla, please use the information provided below.

Contact Information

Todd Gruchalla

Regional Quality Assurance Specialist West

NVS VFW

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Eligibility

- Must be a Washington VFW Post or Auxiliary.
- The project must support homeless veterans within Washington State.
- Maximum request: \$500 per project.

Raffles at Department Convention

Two raffles will take place at the June Convention. John Kaiser from Tenacity Outdoors has generously donated a fishing trip for four people; tickets are \$5 each and will be available from the beginning of the Convention. The drawing will occur at 3 PM on Saturday, June 20, 2026, with proceeds supporting the Department President's Special Project. (see attached flyer)

The second raffle features two prizes: a wagon filled with adult beverages or a mystery gift. The first ticket drawn gets to choose which prize they prefer. Tickets for this raffle cost \$1 each, and all funds raised will benefit VMS/NVS. Thank you for supporting these initiatives.

VFW Day of Service

May is when VFW members support their communities through local service projects, known as the Day of Service. Many participants have already downloaded the TOOL KIT: <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service-resources/>

The kit includes event ideas, social media tools, photo tips, talking points, sample radio scripts, and promotional files for banners and yard signs—formatted for print shops or online vendors like [VistaPrint](#), [Imprint](#), or [Office Depot](#). For your posts on Day of Service, use the hashtags **#VFWDayOfService** and **#StillServing**, and don't forget to add **#VFSRisingtide** (hash tag used by National Auxiliary Veterans and Family Support Ambassador) to help spread awareness and promote our efforts.

“A rising tide lifts all veterans to success”—we must “keep the home fires burning.” Your actions have been remarkable in supporting our veterans, their families, and our communities. I applaud everyone for your dedication and encouragement.