

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN 1

Dear Members of the VFW Department of Washington Auxiliary,

My name is Rose Green, and I have the honor of serving as the Veterans and Support Chairman for the Department for 2025-26. I recognize the outstanding initiatives you undertake to support veterans and their families and would appreciate learning more about your activities. You can share photographs, and flyers of your events to wecareaboutvets@gmail.com. We also encourage you to share them with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. Flyers can be submitted for consideration by sharing them to <https://www.dva.wa.gov/calendar>. Photos of your events can be shared by sharing your Facebook link to communications@dva.wa.gov.

September is dedicated to acknowledging Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), as well as commemorating Gold Star activities, Medal of Honor ceremonies, and raising awareness about suicide prevention. We extend our sincere gratitude in advance for your continued support of these veterans and their families. Please share photos and remember to add the 5 W's- who, what, where, when, and why with each submission.

Your stories and experiences not only inspire others, but they also help strengthen the bonds within our community and highlight the invaluable work being done across the state. By sharing what you do, we can celebrate your successes and encourage greater participation in our shared mission.

Please remember, your efforts—large or small—make a meaningful difference. Whether it is organizing care package drives, hosting support gatherings, or partnering with local organizations, every contribution counts toward uplifting those who have served.

If you are planning events and seeking funding, please refer to our Department Website: <https://vfwauxwa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=137912>. This link contains seven pages of resources, which are updated regularly; check back periodically for new additions. If you know of other resources, you are encouraged to share them. Information regarding available grants and the VFW National Pass-Through donation is included. The VFW provides this service to auxiliaries due to non-profit status differences. While many organizations offer grants or gifts to 501c19 entities, auxiliaries are classified as 501c3. Therefore, if an individual is willing to donate more than \$100, pass-through donations may be considered as an option.

How can you help veterans and their families? Connecting them with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) is a great start. Use these links:

- Washington State VSO: <https://vfwwa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=84307>
- National VSO: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits>

The first link is for VSOs in Washington state, while the second helps locate an accredited VFW Service Officer anywhere in the country.

Coins are available for purchase at \$20 each to support funding for VMS (Veterans and Military Support) and NVS (National Military Services). VMS programs include Unmet Needs, Help-A-Hero, and the Military Appreciation Program – MAP Grants. NVS programs provide a nationwide network of VFW Accredited Service Officers and Pre-Discharge Representatives who specialize in VA procedures; these officers obtained \$14.6 billion in compensation and pension benefits for veterans and eligible family members in fiscal year 2024. Posts or auxiliaries that buy five coins at one time will be entered into a drawing for five coins at the Department Mid-Winter Conference. Additional details can be found in the attached flyer.

Quilt Raffle tickets are available for \$1.00 each, with all proceeds supporting the Department President's Special Project.

Heroes Homestead

<https://www.heroeshomestead.org/>

Heroes Homestead is a non-profit organization based in Washington State, established in 2018. Its mission is to enhance the well-being of families connected to armed service members, veterans, and first responders. The organization supports veterans and their families by offering mentorship, counseling, equine therapy, peer support groups, and community events aimed at fostering healing and growth.

Zodiac bottle raffle tickets are available for purchase at \$5.00 each to benefit the Department President's Special Project. Please refer to the attached flyer for details. The drawing is scheduled to take place during the Mid-Winter Conference.

Thank you for your dedication to supporting veterans, their families, and our communities. Please continue to share your experiences. If you are hosting an event in support of veterans and their families, kindly use the hashtags #VFWRisingTide #vfwauxwa #auxiliariesinaction

Rose Green

VFW Department of Washington Veterans and Family Support Chairman

VFW Department of Washington Auxiliary Department President's Robyn Sterrett's Special Project Heroes Homestead Raffle

<https://www.heroeshomestead.org/>



SPECIAL PROJECT

The Department President's Special Project is Heroes Homestead, which is a non-profit organization based in Washington State, established in 2018. Its mission is to enhance the well-being of families connected to armed service members, veterans, and first responders. The organization supports veterans and their families by offering mentorship, counseling, equine therapy, peer support groups, and community events aimed at fostering healing and growth.

Tickets are \$1.00 each

Drawing will be at the end of Mid-Winter Conference

Ticket can be purchased by reaching out to Rose Green the 2025-2026 Veterans and Family Support Chairman.

Email :

wecareaboutvets@gmail.com or calling 360-908-2987 and leaving a message.



2025-2026

VMS/ NVS COIN CHALLENGE

Coins are available for purchase at \$20 each to support funding for VMS (Veterans and Military Support) and NVS (National Military Services). VMS programs include Unmet Needs, Help-A-Hero, and the Military Appreciation Program – MAP Grants. NVS programs provide a nationwide network of VFW Accredited Service Officers and Pre-Discharge Representatives who specialize in VA procedures; these officers obtained \$14.6 billion in compensation and pension benefits for veterans and eligible family members in fiscal year 2024. Posts and/or auxiliaries who buy five coins at one time will be entered into a drawing for five coins at the Department Mid-Winter Conference.

Coin's Symbolism

The coin is in the shape of a dog tag. The front features a bugle symbolizing remembrance of our fallen, encircled by a green laurel wreath, representing life everlasting as recognized by the VFW. Those items are found on a black background representing the POW/ MIA (Prisoners of War or Missing In Action) . On the backside you will find a small poppy representing ALL veterans, a gold star emblem representing families who have lost a loved one in their service to the military, and a teardrop. We as auxiliary members recognize the tear drop as Suicide Awareness. I tell people it is OUR STORIES, as we are the ones who treat the veterans with PTSD,TBI'S and suffer from burn pit exposure and so much more, and it is the tears we shed for them, wishing they returned to us the way they were before they went to war. These are set on a purple background representing the Purple Heart Veterans. The Saying on the back is " WE REMEMBER THEM, THEIR SACRIFICES WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN"

Please reach out to Rose Green the Veterans and Family Support Chairman at 360-908-2987 and leave a message. Or email wecareaboutvets@gmail.com to find out more about this COIN CHALLENGE

EASTERN WASHINGTON

HEROES HOMESTEAD VICTORY CENTER & GARDEN

509.821.8305

4777 Gibson- Dahl Road
Clayton, WA 99110

www.HeroesHomestead.org
info@heroeshomestead.org

WASHINGTON/IDAHO

HEROES JOURNAL

509.821.8305

4777 Gibson- Dahl Road
Clayton, WA 99110

HeroesHomestead.org/journal
info@heroeshomestead.org

NATIONAL

HEROES MARKET

509.821.8305

HeroesMarket.org
hello@heroesmarket.org

HEROES APPROACH

Our mission is to bring our armed service members and veterans HOME in body, mind and soul. We connect agencies and organizations to give you a personalized care plan that fits your needs. We have care coordinators and mentors available to help specialize your care. Active, Reserves, Veterans and family members are welcome to apply for support.
It's time to realize your best future.

HONOR- FORTIFY- CELEBRATE



HEROESHOMESTEAD.ORG

HEROES MISSION

HONORING HEROES

Outreach events showcase leaders in the veteran and military community and help share their stories and journey. Heroes are leading in their regions, communities and workspaces.

FORTIFYING FAMILIES

Through connecting resources, families are better suited to receive their hero home after deployment, lifetime service or unexpected retirement or departure. Through mentoring, counseling, equine, food and shelter assistance and more, our families have their immediate needs met while they work toward life long goals.

CELEBRATING FREEDOM

Assisting veterans and military to move from grief and guilt into a celebratory heart toward America. Giving permission to celebrate the freedom they fought hard to defend. Events like Freedom Fest and Heroes Walk along with Heroes Awards Night help embrace the efforts of our military and thank them year round for their dedicated endeavors.

HERE, YOU ARE FAMILY. HEROES FAMILY



Get connected through an array of activities offered year-round.



HEROES WALK

Community walk to step out for our veterans and military in the fight for life! Heroes fight back the darkness of post war trauma, and together we help them thrive after service.

HEROES CAMP

Spend a weekend camping with veteran and military families. Take on the challenges of the weekend and grow in communication, knowledge, and relationship skills.



PEER GROUPS

Local groups for veterans, male and female, spouses and kids! Join a group and start growing together. Peer groups enjoy a meal, discuss a lesson, and enjoy a shared activity together.

CONNECT

Phone: (509) 821-8305 | info@theroeshomestead.org



Visit the Homestead

