

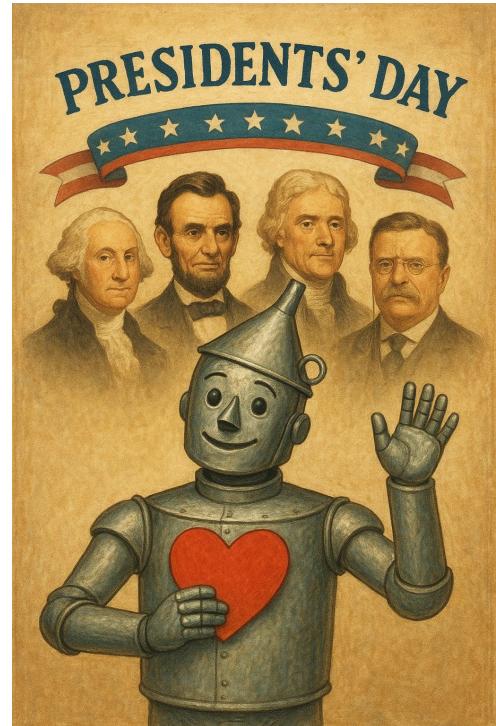
 <p>“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today” by “Having a Heart for Hospitalized Veterans.”</p>	<p>The Brick Road to the Department of Missouri Hospital Program</p>  <p>January/February 2025-2026</p>	<p>Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652 mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</p> <p>“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keeps Us Free” we should be “Caring for Our Veterans Like the Ocean Caring for the Waves.”</p>
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Happy New Year! The Holiday Season is now behind us and a brand-new year of 2026 is ahead of us. Now is not the time to sit back and take it easy.

Have you heard of the Medical Foster Home Program? When living at home becomes difficult, some people prefer to remain in a home-like setting rather than move to a nursing home. In moments like these, the VA Medical Foster Home (MFH) is here to help. MFH is a voluntary option that assists in matching veterans with approved MFH caregivers to provide care in a family home. The veterans receive appropriate oversight provided by the VA MFH and Home-Based Primary Care. Payment for the care will be made by the veteran to the caregiver, and the cost of care will be based on the veteran's care needs and financial resources. Caregivers must have prior experience (formal or informal) and have the compassion and motivation to provide 24/7 supervision to the veteran placed in their home. To ensure safety and quality of care, there are multiple steps and training requirements to become a VA MFH caregiver. Is this something your family would be interested in providing?

February gives us Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. What will you be doing for those in hospital or nursing homes? National Ambassador Kim Copson said, "Go to your local VA hospital or clinic and collaborate with the staff. Perhaps they are hosting a party at which you can participate. This is great start, but sometimes we become so focused on an event we have, we forget about others. Your Auxiliary does not have to limit your focus on one event. Contact several medical facilities in your area and find out ways you can pitch in."



Continue to report. All your hard work deserves to be counted, and the reports show just how much you are doing for our most vulnerable veterans. As of this writing (11/21/25) you have reported the following: 345 Projects, 6,604 hours volunteered by 1,135 members. You have donated \$67,503.64 throughout the Department. Continue to report. There are 41 Auxiliaries that have not reported in the Hospital Program. Our year will be over before we know it.

As we walk this yellow brick road toward veterans' healthcare needs, let us be ever mindful that they are more than deserving of our time and efforts by "having a heart for hospitalized veterans."

Until next time... Let us keep our hearts turned toward our veterans. Karen