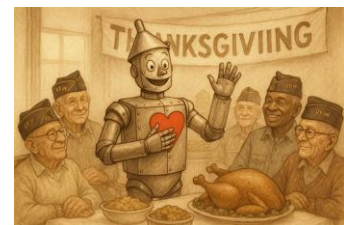
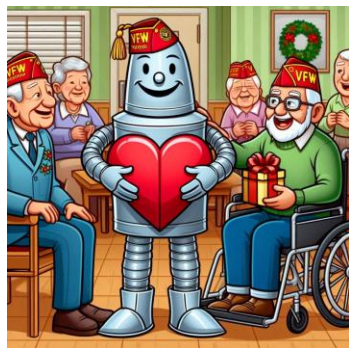


	"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today" by "Having a Heart for Hospitalized Veterans."	The Brick Road to the Department of Missouri Hospital Program  November/December 2025-2026	Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652 mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keeps Us Free" we should be "Caring for Our Veterans' Like the Ocean Caring for the Waves."
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"This Thanksgiving, we give thanks for the veterans whose courage never fades—whether in battle or in quiet halls of healing, you are never forgotten."



As we continue down this yellow brick road of service and compassion, let us not forget those who have paved the way for our freedoms—our veterans. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, or another meaningful tradition, the holiday season is a perfect time to share joy and gratitude with veterans in homes, hospitals, and care facilities.



Our Veterans have many health issues: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), moral and spiritual depression, suicide, substance use disorders, stress, anxiety, isolation, loneliness, and food insecurity are some. How can we make it better?

Identify the Veteran's need: • Ask the question, how can I help and what do you need? Always be kind, gracious, and listen. • Create a plan to meet their need. This is the time to be creative! • Get a dream list of items needed at the VAVS/CDCE for the VA hospital patients. •

Collect needed new clothes for the homeless Veteran unit. • Have fun with a "Happy Frog Party" in the long-term health care units. • Call Auxiliary members for goodies to fill snack bags for the local VA clinic lab. • Get the Boy or Girl Scouts to help pass out Veteran's Day cards.

There are countless ways to brighten their holidays. In-person visits, caroling, small gifts, and simple acts of kindness can make a world of difference. For those unable to attend in person, craft-at-home projects like handmade cards, decorations, or comfort items are deeply appreciated and bring the warmth of the season straight to our heroes' hearts. Execute your plan! Serve with what

you have! The smallest action that is done with compassion, honor, and respect will result in the biggest smiles from our Veterans!

Please remember to report all activities online so your service is recognized and contributes to our collective mission. Every step we take together on this road brings light, love, and dignity to those who have served.



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