

Hospital/VAVs
Department of Missouri
MAY/JUNE 2026

Darla Nebel
17920 Highway 8
St. James, MO 65559
Darlanebel66@gmail.com
(573) 205-3454

As we are coming to the end of the yellow brick road, we will march on with **“Carrying Our Torches for Veterans”** for Missouri VFW President Anita Crowell as she walks hand in hand with our National VFW Auxiliary President Donna Mills **“Serving America’s Heroes”**. I am excited to be the new Hospital Chairman. I look forward to a fun year as we find ways to serve our veterans in hospitals and nursing homes, as they look forward to seeing your smiling faces. That’s what the hospital program is all about visiting with veterans and making their day brighter.

Honor and celebrate our veterans - get creative! Before hosting an event with a facility, the VFW Auxiliary Chairman should get permission from the facility. Be sure to ask what is and what is not permitted. All projects should be voted on by your Auxiliary at a regular meeting.

Here are some ideas to help make your visits more enjoyable for everyone: Organize themed parties for holidays, lead simple craft sessions, or bring in local entertainment for music or storytelling. You can create care packages, write letters with the veterans, or host a “memory sharing” day where veterans tell their stories. Remember, the most important thing is your presence and genuine care.

Have fun with the veterans - play cards, host a painting party, pizza party, bingo or ice cream party, or maybe even try trivia. Use your imagination and always keep the veterans’ interests and enjoyment at heart. Together, let’s make this year memorable for those who have given so much to our country!

Did you know this famous quote from Abraham Lincoln became the VA’s motto in 1959? “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.”

As you plan your hospital activities for this year, keep in mind these traditional and just-for-fun holidays. How many can you help celebrate this year?

Traditional Holidays:

- Valentine’s Day
- National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week
- Easter
- Memorial Day
- Flag Day
- Independence Day
- Patriot Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

Just-for-Fun Holidays:

- National Popcorn Day – January 19
- National Hug a GI Day – March 4
- National Donut Day – June 5
- World Chocolate Day – July 7
- Left-handers Days – August 13

“Carrying Our Torches for Veterans”

