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| A flower with green leaves  Description automatically generated | **Veterans and Family Support****Department of Missouri****January-February 2024** | Judi Reine1022 W 7th StSedalia, MO  65301Judi.Reine@gmail.com(660) 287-1604 |

Way to go, Missouri! Auxiliaries have purchased Quik Trip gift cards for veterans in financial need, helped veterans fly on Honor Flights, donated to the Maui Wildfire Relief effort through the Hawaii VFW, held baby showers for expecting veterans, and promoted Suicide Awareness by making teardrop pins for members to wear and share. I love reading your reports and learning about what you are doing for our veterans.

In this report I will highlight the **National Veterans Service**.

The Department of Veterans Affairs claims process can be confusing and is one that veterans shouldn’t try to navigate alone. The VFW’s National Veterans Service (NVS) was established to help all veterans, service members, and their families obtain the benefits they deserve – all at no cost! NVS provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Veterans represented by the VFW recouped more than $13 billion in compensation and pension on behalf of veterans and eligible family members in fiscal year 2023.

VFW Accredited Service Officers are trained experts, helping veterans develop their case with ease by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations, and medical histories. As skilled professionals, they assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs. They will also present oral arguments during hearings before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals when needed.

These highly skilled professionals assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, in filing claims for:

* Disability compensation.
* Rehabilitation and educational programs.
* Pension and death benefits.
* Employment and training programs.

NVS also works to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care, including:

* Hospital care.
* Outpatient care.
* Specialized health care for female veterans.
* Alcohol and drug dependency treatment.
* Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service, exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, or other environmental hazards.

**Monetary Donations**

Donations to this wonderful support program can be made online or by mail. To donate online go to vfw.org/ways-to-help and select the National Veterans Service program, then click the Contribute button. Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW. Be sure to earmark which program or programs you are donating to. Mail checks to:

VFW National Headquarters

Attn: NVS

406 W. 34th Street, 11th Floor

Kansas City, MO 64111

There are two National awards for the Veterans and Family Support program. Every auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase awareness of **military suicide and mental health** will get a citation from National. Just fill out the Award No. 1 form and send it to me. If your auxiliary hosts an activity that **increases the support of veterans**, fill out the Award No. 2 form and send it to me to receive a citation. Both award forms are due to me by March 31 and are available on the Department website.

Keep up the good work, Missouri! I hope to see you at our Winter Conference in February.

Remember: This year all reports are being done online; if you don’t have a computer, you can call or send me details about your activities, projects, and/or donations and I will enter your report for you. Please give me the information as you complete your project.

Show Me Teamwork…as We Work for Our Veterans ~ Banding Together for Our Veterans