

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary

Veterans & Family Support - January 2026

www.vfwauxsd.org

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Program Goals

VFW National Veterans Service

VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs

Assist Veterans, Service Members & their Families

Promote Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

February already. Now that we have January under our belt for 2026, we are settling into another year. We are revitalized with new energy and March will be here before we know it. It is time to sit down to report on all the fantastic activites that your Auxiliaries have done for Veterans so far this year (June 2025 – March 2026). Let's also remember:

Is it Reportable under VFS?



✓ Donations to:

- ✓ Cancer Grant Fund
- ✓ Safety/Drug Abuse
- ✓ Service Officer Fund
- ✓ Emergency/Disaster Fund
- ✓ MAP
- ✓ NVS
- ✓ Veterans and Military Support
- ✓ Support for homeless veterans and veterans in need
 - ✓ Food security
 - ✓ Stand Downs
- ✓ Activities for active military
 - ✓ Care packages
 - ✓ Welcome Home
 - ✓ Adopt a Troop
- ✓ Promotion and support for Suicide and Mental Health
- ✓ Providing caregiving and child care respite for families
- ✓ Promoting Veteran and Military Support programs
 - ✓ MAP
 - ✓ Help a Hero Scholarship
- ✓ Chaplain activities



- ✗ Donations to a Post
- ✗ Cleaning, cooking for a Post
- ✗ Support for Post activities/fundraisers
- ✗ Holding a fundraiser (not reportable until the money is spent on an eligible project)
- ✗ Activities that you are compensated for
- ✗ Activities outside the current reporting period
- ✗ Donations to Cancer Centers
- ✗ Fundraisers for Dept. General Fund such as 365 Days of Giving/raffles
- ✗ Hosting an event for Veterans where there is a charge
- ✗ Donations to non-veteran specific charities
- ✗ Quilts of Honor/Valor (Americanism)
- ✗ Honor Flights (Americanism)
- ✗ POW/MIA ceremony (Amer.)
- ✗ Holiday Parades/Activities (Americanism)

Keep It Local – With Valentines Day – everyone thinks you have to great, visit, provide treats on that day. It is a busy day at most facilities – how about picking a different day to celebrate the Veterans/residents. You can still do the valentines theme but make it about celebrating them! We are in the slow months after the holidays so a simple hello is the best medicine.

IDEAS:

- Collect non-perishable food items for a local food pantry.
- Collect new blankets for your local Rescue Mission or Veterans Outreach Center.
- Send monthly birthday cards to your members.
- Send Miss You cards to your homebound members.

#22ADAY Movement

Everyday, 22 veterans lose their battle to post traumatic stress on American soil. That is 1 veterans every 65 minutes.

The rates for the active duty individual services per 100,000 according to the report, were 23 for the Army, 23.1 for the Marine Corps, 14.4 for the Air Force and 13.4 for the Navy.

The Veteran Administration statistics confirm 22 Veterans a day are succumbing to suicide on American soil.

The total number of those losing their battle grows larger with each day research and treatments are not able to be done.

The Military Suicide Awareness #22ADAY Movement is the advocacy action network and the natural next step to the mission of the Military Veteran Project. Military Suicide Awareness gives a voice to the vast network of volunteers, donors, and participants involved in the work of the Military Veteran Project.

Events are organized by Ambassadors and are unique in every way – from small groups of people at local malls, hundreds of people uniting together at parks, schools, and even at parades in your hometown to a small awareness movement at City, County or State facilities (permission required) to help the movement grow and spread the awareness in our communities. By [becoming an Ambassador](#) you will receive photos, pamphlets, and other items to educate the community of the reality of military suicide.

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

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