

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support Welcome Information 2026-27

www.vfwauxsd.org

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Program Goals for 2026-2027

VFW National Veterans Service (NVS)

Military Appreciation Program (MAP)

VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs

Assist Veterans, Service Members & their Families

Promote Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness

#2

August 2026

Happy August – Hard to believe we are starting school again this month. That means it is time to get into the school and communities promoting our Veterans & Family Support Program.

I have attached the Veterans & Family Support National Awards #1 and #2 so you can start planning activities accordingly. I will have the year end report for South Dakota in September's issue.

Special Upcoming Days

August 4 US Coast Guard Birthday
August 7 Purple Heart Day
August 16 National Airborne Day
August 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday
September 2 V-J Day (Victory over Japan)
September 7 Labor Day
September 11 Patriot Day
September 17 Constitution Day & Citizenship Day
September 18 Air Force Birthday & POW/MIA Day
September 27 Gold Star Mothers & Family Day



Our other focus this year will be Caregivers – we all know someone that is a caregiver for a Veteran, family member or community member. We cannot forget them! It is a thankless job and sometimes just a phone call, stop by or a 10 minute break can give the emotional support needed or another day. We will talk more next month for NATIONAL CAREGIVERS MONTH IN

NOVEMBER. Start planning an event/activity now.



September is Suicide prevention Awareness Month, but did you know September 10th is also World Suicide Prevention Day and National Suicide prevention Week from September 13-19th.

Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness: Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and mental health awareness will be one of our items focus this year. Make sure that you include the public when you promote resources available. Secondary, PTS is just as prevalent a problem that goes hand in hand with Suicide Prevention. Think of these families living with someone with PTS, they need to know they can reach out for help and understanding. Promote the VFW & Auxiliary, as a safe space and think of ways to comfort and heal those in need. Offer a "Gathering Time" use the time to make appreciation cards, play games, learn a new craft, etc. – a no pressure time of fellowship and community – you never know if just getting out & connecting, saying hi, a smile, or talking about nothing will make a difference.

Attached is the flyer for Suicide Prevention and the tear drops.

You can find more information at <https://www.vrw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>

KNOW THE SIGNS: Familiarize yourself with the 5 Signs of Emotional Suffering:

1. Talking about suicide or death
2. Isolation and withdrawl
3. Uncharacteristic changes in behavior
4. Accessing lethal means
5. Extreme mood swings or changes in sleep patterns



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GRANTS Available

VFW Foundation Grants

- **Post Assistance Grant** – offers exclusively to VFW Posts to offset expenses for building repairs/equipment.
- **VFW #STILLSERVING Grant** - offers offsets incurred for community service projects – this is open to Post, Districts and Auxiliaries.
- **Uniting for Veterans Grant** - a limited matching grant available to Posts and Auxiliaries for monetary, food, or item donations to local food banks, pantries or homeless relief organizations in their communities.

Student Veteran Support Grant

Available for supporting student veteran events. VFW Post and Departments are eligible to submit applications. Focusing on campuses with veteran student population.

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

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SCAN ME