



District 10 Trustee Newsletter

🇺🇸 SEPTEMBER THE VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER 🇺🇸

Dear VFW, VFVA, MOC, MOCA National Home Life Members, Department Chairmen, and Department Commanders/Presidents,

As we move into September, I want to once again thank each of you for your continued dedication and support of the VFW National Home. Every Life Membership, donation, volunteer hour, fundraiser, and act of support helps strengthen the National Home's mission of assisting military members, veterans, and their families as they work toward safe, healthy, stable, and independent futures. This month, we are taking a closer look at one of the important ways those principles are put into action:

🇺🇸 THE VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER & VETERAN SERVICES

- Veterans and military families often know that help exists—but finding the right help can be overwhelming.
- That is where Veteran Services can make a difference.
- Please share this newsletter with your Department Chairmen, District Chairmen, Posts, Auxiliaries, Pup Tents, Grands, and members through your monthly mailings, newsletters, meetings, and social media pages.
- Someone you know may need the resources contained in this month's newsletter. Sharing this information could be the first step toward connecting a veteran or military family with the help they need.

🇺🇸 MEET THE VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER

- The Veteran Resource Center and Veteran Services are important parts of the support system available through the VFW National Home.
- The goal is not simply to hand a veteran a telephone number or a list of agencies.
- It begins by **listening**.

Veteran Services works to understand the veteran or family's situation, identify appropriate resources, explain possible next steps, and help connect them with programs and benefits that may address their individual needs.

Support may include assistance involving:

-  VA benefits
-  Employment and career resources
-  Education opportunities
-  Housing resources
-  Financial challenges
-  Mental-health resources
-  Community programs and referrals
-  Veteran-specific services
-  Benefits navigation and advocacy

Sometimes the hardest part of asking for help is simply knowing where to begin.

The Veteran Resource Center helps provide a place to begin.

SUPPORT DOESN'T STOP AT THE CAMPUS GATES

Nationwide Veteran & Military Family Support

One of the most important messages we can share this month is:

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LIVE AT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME TO ASK FOR HELP.

The VFW National Home provides veteran and military family support across the United States through its nationwide outreach and Veteran Services efforts.

Veterans and families can reach out for:

-  **GUIDANCE & NEXT STEPS**-Veteran Services can listen to the situation and help determine possible next steps.
-  **REFERRALS TO TRUSTED RESOURCES**-Families can be connected with programs and organizations appropriate to their individual circumstances.
-  **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & ADVOCACY**-Sometimes veterans need someone who understands military life, listens, and helps them work through the barriers standing between them and needed assistance.
- **VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE**-Veteran Services can provide guidance in understanding and navigating benefits veterans may have earned through their military service.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

The National Home describes the Veteran Services process in four basic steps.

1 YOU REACH OUT

- A veteran or military family contacts Veteran Services.
- You don't have to know exactly what program you need before calling.
- Start with your situation.

2 THEY LISTEN

- Veteran Services takes time to understand the veteran's or family's goals, concerns, and circumstances.
- Every family is different, and the right solution for one veteran may not be the right solution for another.

3 THEY CONNECT YOU WITH RESOURCES

- Once the need is understood, Veteran Services can help identify relevant programs, benefits, and resources.
- That could involve VA benefits, housing assistance, employment resources, mental-health services, education, financial resources, or other assistance.

4 THEY FOLLOW UP

- Connecting someone with a resource is only part of the process.
- Veteran Services can follow up to determine whether the connection worked and help identify another direction when additional assistance is needed.

YOU REACH OUT • THEY LISTEN • THEY CONNECT • THEY FOLLOW UP

 **A NUMBER WORTH SHARING**—Do you know a veteran or military family who needs help?

**VFW NATIONAL HOME
VETERAN & FAMILY SUPPORT**

 **CALL OR TEXT: 800-424-8360**

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday

8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Veterans and military families can reach out even when they are unsure exactly what kind of assistance they need. **Please put this number in your Post and Auxiliary newsletters, on your bulletin boards, and share it at your meetings.** You never know who may need it.

WHAT KIND OF HELP CAN A VETERAN RECEIVE?

Veterans may face challenges involving employment, education, finances, health care, housing, benefits, or transitioning from military to civilian life.

- Veteran Services can help veterans identify resources appropriate to their circumstances.
- Examples of VA-related benefits that eligible veterans may be able to access include:
 -  **VA Home Loan Benefits**
 -  **VA Healthcare**
 -  **GI Bill Education Benefits**
 -  **Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)**
 - **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** for eligible surviving family members

Eligibility varies, but veterans should never assume they do not qualify without first asking.

BUILDING A FUTURE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

Veteran Services also recognizes that meaningful employment can be an important part of building long-term independence.

Employment support can include:

- Career exploration
- Résumé development
- Employment readiness
- Identifying transferable military skills
- Connecting veterans with employment resources and employers

Military service develops leadership, discipline, teamwork, problem-solving, technical skills, and responsibility. Helping veterans recognize how those abilities transfer into civilian careers can open new doors.

EDUCATION CREATES OPPORTUNITY

- Education continues to be an important part of Veteran Services.
- Eligible veterans may receive assistance identifying educational opportunities and using benefits available to help them pursue academic and career goals.
- Education can mean:
 -  College
 -  Career or technical training

-  Professional development
-  Job training
-  Certifications
-  Learning new skills

Education isn't simply about earning a degree. **It is about creating choices and opportunities for the future.**

WHEN MORE SUPPORT IS NEEDED

THE ON-CAMPUS PROGRAM

For qualifying military and veteran families with children who need a deeper level of assistance, the National Home also offers its on-campus residential program in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

Eligible families may receive:

-  No-cost housing
-  On-site licensed daycare
-  Professional case management
-  Education and job-training opportunities
-  Financial education
-  Veteran-specific resources
-  Children's programs
-  Opportunities designed to build long-term independence

Families work with their case manager to establish meaningful goals and make progress toward those goals.

The purpose is not simply to provide temporary housing.

The purpose is to help families develop the foundation they need to move forward independently.

PROGRAMS BUILDING CONNECTION

Veterans can also find connection and personal growth through National Home programs.

HEROES TO HIVES

Veterans learn about beekeeping while developing skills, connecting with nature, and becoming part of a supportive community.

GUITARS FOR VETS

Music provides an opportunity for veterans to connect, build camaraderie, and experience the therapeutic benefits that can come from learning and playing music together.

 **RAVE-Regenerative Agriculture for Veterans** provides hands-on agricultural training and educational opportunities for participating residents.

- Different veterans need different pathways.
- That is why having a variety of resources matters.

SEPTEMBER INFORMATION SPOTLIGHT

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW WHAT TO ASK FOR

One of the most important messages we can give a veteran is:

You don't have to figure everything out before asking for help.

A veteran may simply know:
"I'm struggling financially."
"I don't understand my VA benefits."
"I need a better job."
"My family needs help."
"I don't know where to start."
That is enough reason to reach out.
The first step is a conversation.

 **800-424-8360**

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

This month, I am asking every Department, District, Post, Auxiliary, Pup Tent, and Grand in District 10 to help promote **Veteran Services and the Veteran Resource Center**.

Consider including the Veteran Services information in:

-  Facebook posts
-  Newsletters
-  Email distributions
-  Post bulletin boards
-  Meeting announcements
-  Community events
-  Veteran outreach activities

We spend a great deal of time raising money for veteran programs—and that is important. But sometimes one of the most valuable things we can give a veteran costs nothing:

INFORMATION.

Someone in your community may need help and simply not know where to find it.

41 HOMES NOW OCCUPIED

- The National Home now has **41 occupied campus houses**.
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EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

The **Early Education Center** currently has **19 children enrolled**.

- Providing quality early education and childcare is an important part of supporting National Home families.
 - While children have a safe and nurturing place to learn and grow, parents can focus on employment, education, appointments, and the goals they are working toward with the National Home.
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NEW RESOURCE COMING FOR VETERANS

DOGS INC. PARTNERSHIP

An exciting new partnership is developing between the VFW National Home and **Dogs Inc.**

- Plans call for Dogs Inc. to help provide:
 -  **Service dogs for veterans**
 -  **Facility dogs for two campus buildings**

This developing partnership will create another resource and source of support for veterans and National Home families.

We look forward to watching this exciting partnership grow.

NATIONAL AUXILIARY & FLORIDA HOUSES

- Construction is officially underway on both

 **SAVE THE DATE**
RIBBON CUTTING
NATIONAL AUXILIARY & FLORIDA HOUSES
 **OCTOBER 23, 2026**

ALUMNI CIRCLE

- Work on **Alumni Circle** continues and is nearing completion.
 - The completed project will provide an improved campus feature recognizing National Home alumni and honoring the families who have been part of the National Home's history.
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GUEST LODGE UPDATE

- The Guest Lodge basement renovation continues moving forward.
 - The project is currently expected to be completed by the end of September.
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THANK YOU, DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS!

The Department of Illinois VFW and Auxiliary provided funding that allowed the National Home to purchase:

-  A 7-by-12-foot fully enclosed trailer
-  An 8-by-20-foot open car hauler
- These trailers will help the Facilities team transport equipment and materials throughout the campus.

Thank you to the **Department of Illinois VFW and Auxiliary** for helping support the National Home's operational needs!

ATTENTION DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMEN

Please continue updating your department's **National Home Life Membership records**.

Send updated lists of deceased Life Members to:

- **Sue Alverson**
salverson@vfwnationalhome.org

Keeping these records current allows the National Home to maintain accurate membership files and helps prevent correspondence from being sent to families following the loss of a loved one. Thank you for helping keep these important records current.

COMING THIS YEAR

VFW NATIONAL HOME HISTORY & PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Each month we will continue exploring another part of the National Home's story, programs, and mission.

OCTOBER-  Then & Now — How the National Home Has Changed Over 100 Years

NOVEMBER-  Stories of Hope — Families Who Found a New Beginning

DECEMBER-  Holiday Traditions at the National Home

JANUARY-  Heroes to Hives — Veterans Finding Purpose Through Beekeeping

FEBRUARY-  R.A.V.E. — Regenerative Agriculture for Veterans

MARCH-  Guitars for Vets — Healing Through Music

APRIL-   4-H at the National Home — Learning, Leadership, and Responsibility

MAY-  Child Development Center — Investing in the Next Generation

STAY CONNECTED

 **Join our Facebook Group: District 10 – VFW National Home**

Throughout this program year, my goal as your District 10 Trustee is to keep our departments informed about the services, programs, opportunities, and success stories happening at the VFW National Home.

HOME FRONT HEROES

After reading your copy of **Home Front Heroes**, please don't simply put it away.

Pass it along to:

-  A veteran
- us Another VFW or Auxiliary member
-  A potential National Home Life Member
-  A military family
-  A community member

Each person who learns about the National Home becomes another person who can help share its mission.

THANK YOU

Every Life Membership, donation, volunteer hour, fundraiser, Facebook post, newsletter article, and conversation about the VFW National Home helps strengthen its mission.

- This month, I especially encourage you to share the Veteran Services information.
 - A veteran does not have to live at the National Home to reach out.
 - A veteran does not have to know exactly what kind of help they need.
 - Sometimes they simply need someone who will listen and help them find the next step.
 -  800-424-8360
 - Please share it. Someone may need it.
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DISTRICT 10 TRUSTEE'S THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“Sometimes helping a veteran begins with something as simple as sharing a phone number, a resource, or letting them know someone is willing to listen. The Veteran Resource Center reminds us that our responsibility does not end when we say, ‘Thank you for your service.’ We honor that service when we help veterans and their families find the resources, opportunities, and support they have earned. Share the information—you never know whose life it may change.”

Shirlee Frias
District 10 Trustee
VFW National Home
2022–2028

TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE—

ONE VETERAN • ONE FAMILY • ONE CONNECTION AT A TIME.