

# BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 2023



**BILLIE GUTHALS**

## **VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT**

In the third newsletter of President Lynn's year, I would like to share information I recently received from Veterans and Family Support (VFS) National Ambassador, Tessa Butcher. I also ask that you **SHARE** this information with your Auxiliaries. Once you have done that, **REPORT** it to me and you can be 100% reported in VFS.

**An excerpt and summary from Tessa's blog follows:**

### Veterans Crisis Information:

Questions have been asked regarding where to find information on the Veterans Crisis Line posters. From MALTA Member Resources, once you click on the link for Veterans Crisis Line, scroll to the bottom of the page and under the "Show Support" heading, click on "Spread the Word." Here you will be able to find resources for social media posts, print materials and videos to utilize in your advocacy efforts. Our National Organization has also added the Veterans Crisis Line information to the National Website homepage, so it's front and center. Remember, when promoting the 988 number and speaking to a veteran make sure they know to still *press option 1* to get in touch with someone who is qualified in assisting veterans. For those who aren't comfortable verbally talking to someone, the option for texting is still available by texting the number 838255. For additional resources, please visit [www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness).

### National Veterans Services:

If you are unsure who the Veteran Service Officers are for your Department, please visit [www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits), and along the right hand side there is a drop-down box for you to select your Department. Knowing who your Service Officers are and having their contact information is important in helping our veterans and their family members get the help they need. I encourage you to create a note in your phone or add the information to your contacts to be easily shared should the need arise.

### Veterans & Military Support:

Part of the Veterans & Military Support Program is the "Sports Clips® Help A Hero" Scholarship. Applications are currently being accepted through **November 15**, for the spring semester. These scholarships support service members and veterans as they work to get the education and training needed to begin the next chapter in their lives. Applicants may apply once per academic semester, regardless of prior award or denial. Applications must be filed online through the VFW website at [www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support).

Now is the time to start preparing for events for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. These holidays provide the perfect opportunity to recognize our veterans with a Thank You

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Coin. Coins may be ordered from the VFW Store. Host a dinner or plan an event for cards to be made and mailed or delivered to VAs, hospitals, nursing homes, senior centers and deployed troops. It's another great opportunity to get our community and youth involved.

I appreciate the information that Ambassador Tessa has shared and I am looking forward to hearing how you put this information to use. Lastly, post pictures on Social Media of ways you are supporting our veterans and use the hashtag **#VFSIL**. This will allow a common depository of pictures that others can easily access and learn from.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our veterans and their families.