

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Veterans & Military Support Program
2023 – 2024**

Greetings Teammates, my name is Rick Bower, and I am the new Veterans & Military Support Department Program Chairman. Prior to this appointment I really did not have a good understanding of what the VMS Program entailed. That said, I am sure many of you do not either. The VMS program oversees the Military Assistance Program (MAP), the Adopt-a-Unit Program, Unmet Needs program and the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship". We also oversee the donations which go to the VMS programs which provide monetary support for most of these programs. One of the other ways we earn money for these programs is by selling pins which you will see shortly at one of your district meetings.

Adopt-a-Unit Application

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/adoptaunitapplication>

MAP Grant Application

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/mapgrantapplication>

In addition to the above programs VMS also two certificate programs.

The VFW National Headquarters has the Legacy Citation of Merit available. Order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our Service Members Killed In Action. Recognize, celebrate, and honor them with your post, auxiliary, and Gold Star Families. Step-by-step instructions on how to order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our service members killed in action.

https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Veterans-and-Military-Support/Reports/Legacy-Citation-of-Merit-Instructions.pdf?v=1&d=20220318T155511Z&la=en

The VFW National Headquarters Military Working Dog Recognition Program has a new citation available. Order the Military Working/War Dog Citation to recognize their service, bravery, and devotion to their fellow troops. Step-by-step instructions on how to order the Military Working War Dog citation to recognize their service, bravery and devotion to their fellow troops.

https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/us_mwd_recognition_citation

Lastly, and most importantly, we need to share how we are taking care of Veterans. Our Motto "No One Does More For Veterans" needs to be seen by all. We need to report all the things we are doing for Active, Guard, Reserve and Retired Vets. The Department of PA has not submitted a report to National in years. On the next few pages are examples and blank forms for districts to submit to me monthly. We need to highlight what we are doing for vets, whether it is doing a honor guard for a funeral, a homeless Vet's stand down, a Golf tournament that supports Vets or a Welcome home ceremony.

Any questions: please contact Rick Bower @ RBower0007@gmail.com

**VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT
MONTHLY CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Please submit this form no later than the 30th of each month.
As the Veterans & Military Support Programs Chairman, what did YOU do this past month?

Tell us about all of your Department troop support events not funded by VFW National.

Please include yellow ribbon events, homeless stand downs, District/Post meetings where Veterans & Military Support Programs were discussed or any other events held in support of our service members, veterans and their families!

Don't forget to include attendance numbers for each activity or event.

1	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	1234	Crossroads Event	60	\$150.00			

Details of Event

Crossroads Event at the PA National Guard Headquarters. Briefed the members that were separating and retiring about the VFW VMS Programs and membership benefits/Visited Post 1234 and discussed VMS Programs and membership. Provided light refreshments.

2	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	4321	Added a Vet		\$1,500			

Details of Event

Veteran received help with rent and medical bills, with the help of Department.

Another veteran received help with car payments from post 4321.

3	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	7894	Army ROTC Dining Out	200	\$100.00			

Details of Event

Post 7894 attended the Penn (Johnstown) State University Army ROTC (Cyclone Battalion) Dining Out

4	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	5648	Homeless Vets Stand down	60				

Details of Event

Post 5648 conducted a homeless Vets stand down and members slept in two different parks in the city overnight to bring awareness and raise money. The Post raised over \$30K in funds for the homeless.

5	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	2589	Welcome Home	250	\$1,500.00			

Details of Event

Post 2589 held a welcome home BBQ for the families and Airmen of the 123rd AW.

6	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	4563	Veterans Funeral	50	\$100			

Details of Event

Post 4563 rallied the community to attend a veteran's funeral who had no living relatives and provided a wreath.



