



Happy fall! As the temperatures outside begin to cool, it's the perfect time to start getting outdoors. "Rock Snakes" have taken over the country and it's the perfect activity to get our youth involved with while promoting our goals within the Veterans & Family Support Program! Amy Stout with the Department of Oklahoma promoted suicide awareness by creating a rock that was placed within the community. Kathy Driskill from the Department of Indiana purchased a suicide awareness banner from Amazon that can be used not only during



meetings, but at community events as well. These are two great ideas for getting the word out. There was also a question 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.

While donations can be made for National Veterans Service and Veterans & Military Support Programs online at www.vfw.org/ways-to-help, Christine LeBrune from the Department of Michigan also made a cheat sheet to be handed

VETERAN & MILITARY SUPPORT DONATIONS	
<p>National Veterans Service (NVS)</p> <p>NVS provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system.</p> <p>These highly skilled professionals assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, in filing claims for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability compensation. Rehabilitation and educational programs. Pension and death benefits. Employment and training programs. <p>Also assists to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care.</p> <p>Donations to NVS can be mailed to:</p> <p>VFW National Headquarters Attn: NVS 406 W. 34th Street, 11th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111</p> <p>Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select National Veterans Service, click "Contribute"</p>	<p>Veterans & Military Support Program</p> <p>These are programs initiated by the VFW to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Military Assistance Program (MAP) - Provides financial assistance for Posts, Districts and Depts. to sponsor morale boosting events. Includes assistance for Adopt-A-Unit. Unmet Needs - Provides grants up to \$1,500 to active-duty service members and their families to assist with basic life needs. VFW "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" - Up to \$5,000 is distributed to qualifying veterans and service members to help them complete their educational goals. <p>Donations to Veterans & Military Support can be mailed to:</p> <p>VFW National Headquarters Attn: Veterans & Military Support 406 W. 34th Street, 9th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111</p> <p>Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select Veterans & Military Support, click "Contribute"</p>

out for those Auxiliaries wishing to send donations by check. If you are unsure who the Veteran Service Officers are for your Department, please visit 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. 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.

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 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 wish you all a wonderful holiday season and thank you for all you do for our veterans, service members, their families and your communities!