

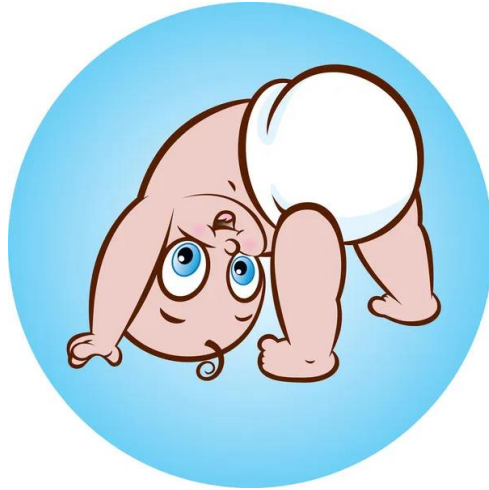
Veterans & Family Support Promotion #1 | July 2024
Evan Smiley
2024-2025 National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador
smileyvfw@gmail.com

Hello brothers and sisters!

I am ECSTATIC to be working with each of you this year as your National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador! I have been an official member of the VFW Auxiliary since my 16th birthday in 2017; however, I have been around the VFW and its Auxiliary for as long as I can remember. I am a Life Member of Meade County Memorial VFW Auxiliary 11404 in Brandenburg, Kentucky. I joined under the eligibility of my grandfather, Ray Smiley, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran.

I have served the organization in many different capacities, as Auxiliary Secretary-Treasurer, District President and currently serving as Department Senior Vice-President. I served as the 2023-2024 Southern Conference Membership Coach. Outside of the Auxiliary, I am a high school business teacher, teaching classes such as financial services, accounting, and introduction to business. I come from a background in banking, so I am often the “money guy” in my Department and find a great amount of joy working with new Treasurers getting them acclimated to bookkeeping for the Auxiliary.

Now, let’s get down to business. We are going to take the National Organization into uncharted waters this year, especially in the Veterans & Family Support Program. On one hand, there are many attributes of this Program that are tried and true and have always worked. On the other hand, we are going to have to try new things and **KEEP MOVING FORWARD!**



Brenda Bryant's special project this year is taking a different spin on supporting veterans, service members and their families. Through *Operation Bottom Cover* we are tasking our members with collecting diapers and other necessities for families with small children. Recent studies have shown that diapers alone, for one baby, averages a family \$80 a month. When you consider other necessities like baby wipes, formula, etc., the cost of bare necessities skyrockets. This is just one of many ways that we challenge our members to think outside of the box, and support our veterans, service members and their families.

Over the course of the next year, you will be seeing many other Promotions, blogs, etc. that will give you ideas from other Departments, Auxiliaries and even other organizations on how you can revitalize your Auxiliary with new ideas on how to support our Uncommon Heroes. *From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans!*