

Veterans and Family Support October 2025 ALERT! YOU CAN HELP!!!

As was recently reported at the District 10 Meeting by National Guard Specialist Derek Hulsebus: The pantry shelves are empty AND INVITE the National Guard Families to YOUR Halloween Activity!

What a way for the VFW and VFW Auxiliary to visit with Active Duty families in their time of need. PLEASE REACH OUT to the National Guard Specialist Coordinator for Arizona, James Puglia : james.v.puglia.civ@army.mil with grocery gift cards, food contributions for the pantries, baby items, upcoming meals events, and with all the VFW Halloween Children's Activities that are family friendly. This is an opportunity, in the immediate, to reach out to our families that may need a little extra assistance with the current shutdown.

From the National VFW Auxiliary Ambassador's promotion:

Boxes for our Troops: Shipping cutoffs tend to be right after Thanksgiving. You can expect to see deadlines for Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office addresses around late October or early November, with recommendations varying by service type (Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, First-Class Mail).

To stay informed, check the official USPS website around the holiday season for the official 2025 military mailing dates.

Military care packages should include a mix of essentials like toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant) and high-quality socks, and comforts such as non-perishable snacks (jerky, trail mix), entertainment (magazines, card games) and personal items (cards, drawings, etc.) to provide a morale boost. They also like having items like Christmas stockings, garland and other easy-to ship holiday decorations to brighten their areas since they are away from the comfort of their homes and families

The holidays also offer an opportunity to put together blessing bags for veterans experiencing homelessness. Items such as socks, hats, gloves and toothbrushes can make a world of difference during the winter. Blanket drives assist in providing the gift of warmth, both for the veteran and for the Auxiliary distributing these items. (Blankets for Bryan: Department President Brenda Kinghorn's Special Project)

Veterans and Family Support National Citation

Most outstanding activity and/or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community. To include:

*Veterans job fairs *Unit homecomings *Mental health-related stand downs

Report, report, report. The Auxiliary hours, monies spent, number of Volunteers on the Post's Community Service Report. Hours = Advocacy

