V F W
NATIONAL HOME

VFW NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

Hello Team Arizona! We are four months into the season, and I am inspired to see that so many of you are working the program. We have many opportunities to Promote the Home and Educate on Eligibility. Our National Ambassador, Mary Anne Kreutz, shared an excellent idea for this activity. Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Events are presented for National Guard and Army Reserve personnel after their deployments. It is the perfect environment to start the conversation. For more information and dates in AZ contact usarmy.usarc.63d-rd.mbx.yellow-ribbon@army.mil. StandDowns are another opportunity. Some locations and dates coming up are:

- Lake Havasu City StandDown, Saturday, Oct. 17th, LHC Aquatics Center
- Navajo County StandDown, Friday, Oct. 23rd, Ethel Berger Center
- Pinal County StandDown, Saturday, Nov. 21, HOHP Veterans Transition Center. Contact Arizona Veterans Stand Down Alliance for more details.
- VA Homeless Veterans StandDown, Sierra Vista, Oct. 23rd, contact Aly Paslay-Bennett, 520-241-0082, alyxandria.paslay-bennett@va,gov

Continue to Educate on Eligibility. Remember, Active Military with dependent children, Veterans with dependent children, and Adult Children with a parent who qualifies for or is a member of the VFW or Auxiliary and have dependent children are eligible. Parents, widows, widowers and guardians of the children are also eligible. Do you know any members with children and families who are struggling? They may be eligible. It is worth mentioning and could give hope to a struggling family.

Our Auxiliaries are proud sponsors of the National Home, and last year, along with the VFW and individual donors, raised $134,000 to make the Retail Store at the Welcome Center a reality. Every amount helped! Residents are now able to buy food, sundries, and even produce from the RAVE garden. Purchases can be made while the store is open and after-hours.

Are you thinking of how to support the National Home financially? Life Memberships and Tribute Bricks are always available. For $100 you or your Auxiliary can purchase a life membership or gift one to someone. Nonmembers can purchase an Associate Life Membership for the same price. Tribute Bricks are now $200 and Centennial Bricks are still available for $500. This year Auxiliary 9401 presented a brick honoring Dallas Emery for her hard work and dedication. What a great memory!

The National Home has some wonderful projects in the works this year. They are renovating an area of the Community Center for Youth Innovation. It is now fully funded and will encourage learning through STEAM exploration and promote creativity, teamwork, and problem solving with the kids. Also fully funded is the Early Education Playground. Projects that still need to be funded are the VFW National Home Theater where families can watch movies with the full movie theater experience, and the National Home Gym

where residents can work out in a supportive community. These can be some projects to support and have some fun with. Challenge someone to do curls. Loser donates $10. Start a challenge for number of miles walked with donations to match.

I will leave you with some trivia: In 1922, one of the World Series games was postponed due to darkness. Proceeds from the makeup game - $25,000 – were donated to charity, helping to fund the beginning of the VFW National Home.

Sincerely,
Peggy Welch
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