



# Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Annual Awards Dinner

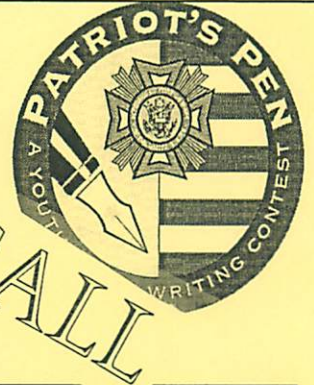


Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Connecticut and its Auxiliary

*SUNDAY January 8, 2023, Starts Promptly At 12:45pm*

*\$20.00 per-person*

**IN THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE ROCKY HILL SHERATON HOTEL  
CAPITAL BLVD - ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT**



Our special guest for this important event will be the Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Duane Sarmentio

### TABLES MAY BE RESERVED IN GROUPS OF 10

The winners of the 53rd Annual State Voice of Democracy and Youth Essay Programs will be Honored at this Dinner. We need your cooperation to make this a Huge Success. Please order your tickets soon if you haven't done so already.

#### Buffett Menu

*Plated (pre-set) Caesar Salad - Roast Sirloin of Beef with Homemade Brown Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes - Chef's Choice of Vegetable - Rolls - Butter - Coffee - Tea  
Desert - Tiramisu*

**Deadline for tickets is Wednesday January 4, 2023**

Please make checks payable to:

**THE DEPT. OF CT VFW or just VFW** and mail with the reservation form below

**Mail To: RICH DIFEDERICO, CHAIRMAN - P.O. BOX 429 - ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT - 06067**

*Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef tickets to the VOD & \_\_\_\_\_ PP Awards Dinner*

*I/we need \_\_\_\_\_ Meals that are Vegetarian or \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten Free Meals.*

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_**

**ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK/MONEY ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED.**

Congratulations to the 10 Post Division Commanders of the month. Their names will go into a drawing each month from which the winner will be drawn on 15 May 2023, and be awarded two tickets to the annual Convention Awards Breakfast and a \$75 gift card to VFW store, so keep up the good work and get your name entered as many times as you can. What a super job those 9 posts in the shaded areas did by achieving their 1005 early on. GREAT JOB!!!! Mario Richards, State Commander

Connecticut as of Thursday, December 1, 2022

City	Post	Dst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	Need
<b>Division 3</b> 356 to 749 Members								
OAKVILLE	7330	5	47	403	475	84.84%	3	72
<b>Division 4</b> 248 to 355 Members								
STRATFORD	9460	1	28	288	310	92.90%	4	22
JEWETT CITY	10004	4	35	219	249	87.95%	4	30
NEW BRITAIN	511	3	60	271	340	79.70%	4	69
<b>Division 5</b> 185 to 245 Members								
NAUGATUCK	1946	2	33	195	202	96.53%	5	7
DANBURY	149	1	10	205	219	93.60%	5	14
DEVON	7788	2	28	165	213	77.46%	5	48
WALLINGFORD	591	2	29	142	192	73.95%	5	50
NEW MILFORD	1672	5	20	140	192	72.91%	5	52
<b>Division 6</b> 143 to 184 Members								
MANCHESTER	2046	3	8	147	149	98.65%	6	2
WILLIMANTIC	1724	4	17	166	175	94.85%	6	9
EAST HAMPTON	5095	6	22	160	169	94.67%	6	9
WINDSOR LOCKS	6123	3	19	136	144	94.44%	6	8
MONTVILLE	10060	4	18	148	160	92.50%	6	12
WESTPORT	399	1	17	133	147	90.47%	6	14
MYSTIC	3263	4	9	135	152	88.81%	6	17
NORWICH	594	4	21	153	173	88.43%	6	20
PAWCATUCK	1265	4	26	148	177	83.61%	6	29
WATERBURY	201	2	24	136	165	82.42%	6	29
CANAAN	6851	5	29	135	175	77.14%	6	40
PRESTON	9452	4	22	138	182	75.82%	6	44
PUTNAM	1523	4	4	123	170	72.35%	6	47
<b>Division 7</b> 112 to 142 Members								
ROCKY HILL	2138	3	16	115	122	94.26%	7	7
WOLCOTT	1979	2	13	116	125	92.80%	7	9
YALESVILLE	9965	2	16	103	118	87.28%	7	15
PLAINFIELD	5446	4	18	121	142	85.21%	7	21
PLAINVILLE	574	3	12	93	117	79.48%	7	24
OLD SAYBROOK	10153	6	29	92	127	72.44%	7	35
<b>Division 8</b> 88 to 111 Members								
BROOKFIELD	10201	1	26	95	94	101.06%	8	+1
NOROTON HEIGHTS	6933	1	8	98	105	93.33%	8	7
AVON	3272	3	11	83	91	91.20%	8	8
WINSTED	296	5	15	90	99	90.90%	8	9
MIDDLETOWN	583	6	11	80	90	88.88%	8	10
WATERTOWN	5157	5	31	84	98	85.71%	8	14
BERLIN	10732	3	20	85	100	85.00%	8	15
NEWTOWN	308	1	7	84	111	84.68%	8	17
NEW LONDON	189	4	10	87	104	83.65%	8	17
<b>Division 9</b> 68 to 87 Members								
NEW HAVEN	12150	2	16	76	72	105.55%	9	+4
NIAHTIC	5849	4	13	83	80	103.75%	9	+3
CANTERBURY	10698	4	0	78	76	102.63%	9	+2
PROSPECT	8075	2	5	74	74	100.00%	9	0
GUILFORD	7666	2	14	64	70	91.42%	9	6
EAST HARTFORD	2083	3	7	68	78	87.17%	9	10
WATERFORD	6573	4	4	61	75	81.33%	9	14
SIMSBURY	1926	3	2	61	77	79.22%	9	16
BRANFORD	12106	2	21	53	68	77.94%	9	15
ELLINGTON	10689	3	8	54	70	77.14%	9	16
TRUMBULL	10059	1	12	57	74	77.02%	9	17

Connecticut as of Thursday, December 1, 2022

State	Post	Dst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	Need
District Totals	1	146	1207	1349	89.47%	5	142	
District Totals	3	192	1364	1572	86.76%	4	208	
District Totals	4	234	1937	2234	86.70%	3	297	
District Totals	2	233	1412	1646	85.78%	4	234	
District Totals	6	91	497	588	84.52%	6	91	
District Totals	5	143	893	1088	82.07%	5	195	
District Totals	99	140	1247	1470	84.82%	4	223	
State Totals		1179	8557	9947	86.02%		1390	

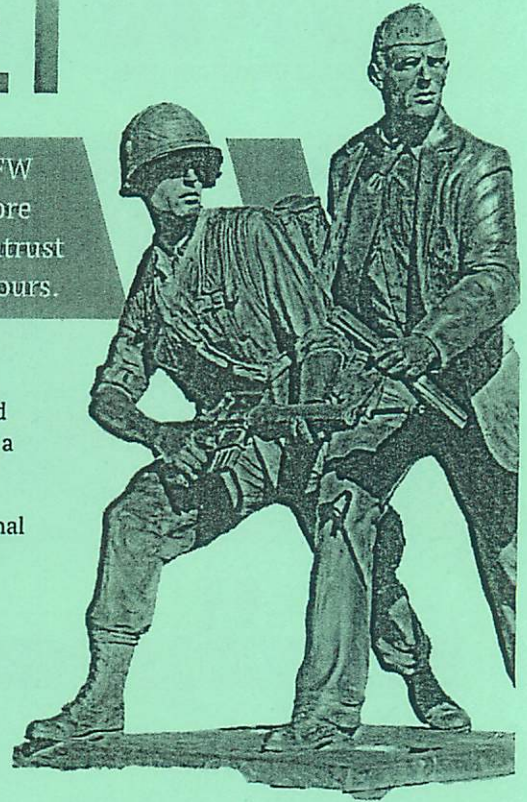
City	Post	Dst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	Need
<b>Division 10</b> 51 to 67 Members								
OLD LYME	1467	4	6	68	67	101.49%	10	+1
WINDSOR	4740	3	10	51	56	91.07%	10	5
NEW CANAAN	653	1	9	49	54	90.74%	10	5
EAST KILLINGLY	4908	4	5	47	56	83.92%	10	9
NORWALK	603	1	6	50	60	83.33%	10	10
SUFFIELD	9544	3	4	49	59	83.05%	10	10
MADISON	2096	2	3	48	58	82.75%	10	10
CLINTON	9918	6	7	42	54	77.77%	10	12
LEDYARD	4608	4	4	45	58	77.58%	10	13
<b>Division 11 (Upper)</b> 10 to 50 Members (31 to 50)								
ANSONIA	597	2	0	40	40	100.00%	11	0
SALEM	2774	4	2	35	36	97.22%	11	1
HARTFORD	254	3	5	34	35	97.14%	11	1
WEST HAVEN	9422	2	7	30	31	96.77%	11	1
STAFFORD SPRINGS	9990	3	10	36	39	92.30%	11	3
SOUTHBURY	1607	2	6	39	45	86.66%	11	6
EAST HADDAM	3336	6	6	32	38	84.21%	11	6
STAMFORD	9617	1	4	37	44	84.09%	11	7
THOMPSON	10088	4	16	39	47	82.97%	11	8
HAMDEN	10321	2	7	41	50	82.00%	11	9
WATERBURY	7790	2	2	39	48	81.25%	11	9
HEBRON	8776	3	4	35	44	79.54%	11	9
SEYMOUR	12084	2	5	28	36	77.77%	11	8
PORTLAND	6121	6	10	29	39	74.35%	11	10
TAFTVILLE	2212	4	2	23	32	71.87%	11	9
CHESHIRE	10052	2	4	23	39	58.97%	11	16
FAIRFIELD	9427	1	3	18	31	58.06%	11	13
<b>Division 11 (Lower)</b> 10 to 50 Members (10 to 30)								
THOMASTON	572	5	0	27	26	103.84%	11	+1
WEST WILLINGTON	938	3	1	26	26	100.00%	11	0
RIDGEFIELD	3052	1	4	19	20	95.00%	11	1
DURHAM	10169	6	1	10	11	90.90%	11	1
ESSEX	6726	6	2	27	30	90.00%	11	3
COS COB	10112	1	7	22	25	88.00%	11	3
COLCHESTER	6990	4	2	20	23	86.95%	11	3
HIGGANUM	10680	6	3	25	30	83.33%	11	5
COVENTRY	10589	3	5	20	25	80.00%	11	5
BRIDGEPORT	10273	1	3	23	30	76.66%	11	7
SHELTON	10466	1	2	19	25	76.00%	11	6
LAKEVILLE	9243	5	1	14	23	60.86%	11	9
Members at Large	16007	99	140	1247	1470	84.82%	4	223
State Total			1179	8557	9947	86.02%		1390

District Commander: District 1: John Kennedy

- Division Commander: 3. Post 7330 Michael Minervino
- Division Commander: 4. Post 9460 Steve Evangelista
- Division Commander: 5. Post 1946 Charles Barnsely
- Division Commander: 6. Post 2046 Arthur Thompson
- Division Commander: 7. Post 2138 James Redick
- Division Commander: 8. Post 10201 Joseph Beal
- Division Commander: 9. Post 12150 Charles Pickett
- Division Commander: 10. Post 1467 Richard Mason
- Division Commander (U): 11. Post 597 John Bittman
- Division Commander (L): 11. Post 572 Richard O'Connell



# FACT SHEET



*As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization,* the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

## THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

*Educate* separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Service Officer.

*Provide* training to VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

*Help* cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

*Deliver* morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

**2,000+**

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

**\$10.65 million**

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,372 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

**\$10 billion**

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits.

**66**

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

**28**

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

**\$3.2 million**

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

**\$12.6 million+**

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 45% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

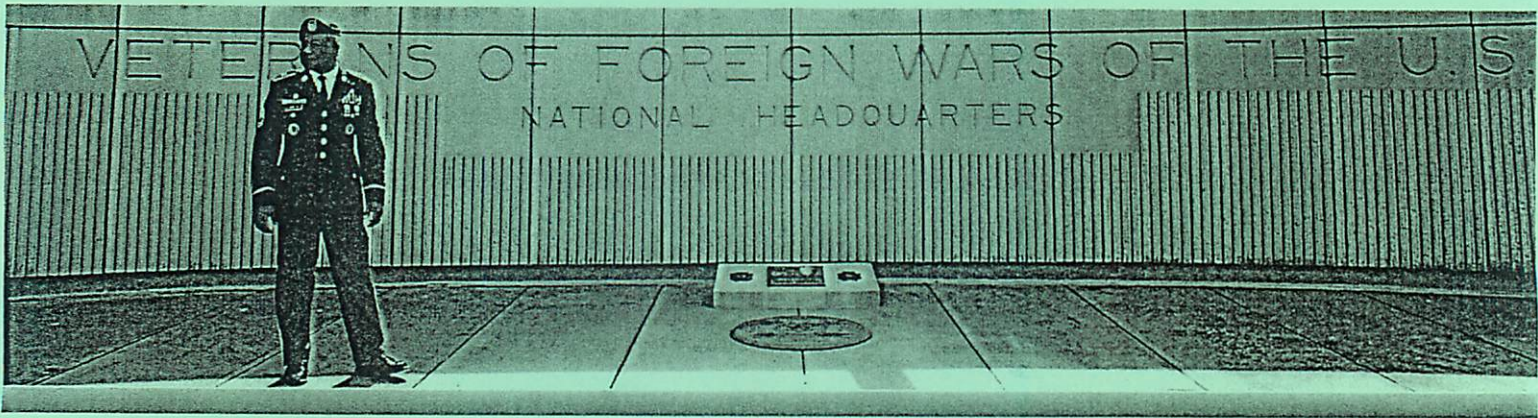
**3.4 million+**

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.





# MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW



## The VFW by the numbers

### 1.5 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

### 5,755

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



## Helping struggling military families

### 11,216

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through *VFW Unmet Needs* since 2004.

### \$5,631,271

Amount of grants provided through *VFW Unmet Needs* covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

### 3,869

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



## Cutting red tape

### 100,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2021.

### Nearly 12,000

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2021 resulting in more than \$152 million in disability compensation.

### 20+

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



### 1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



## Improving life in America

### 5.3 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

### \$52.2 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



## Inspiring patriotism in young people

### 25,000+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2021-22 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

### 72,000+

Number of students who competed in the 2021-22 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

Updated September 2022



## JOIN THE VFW

Learn more about the VFW at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).





# SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



## WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank.

## AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost).

## WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is March 1.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by April 1. The VFW Department Scouting chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by May 1.

Questions should be directed to 816.756.3390, ext 6155.  
during normal business hours Monday through Friday or  
emailed to [scouting@vfw.org](mailto:scouting@vfw.org).

## Official Entry Form

# SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT  
and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.**

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

## SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

## UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

## PARENT'S CONSENT

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Over



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

# SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

### VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT CERTIFICATION IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT CDR.: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
  - A scout leader.
  - A community member.
  - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).
 • In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** – submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost).

## WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call 816.756.3390, ext 6155, or email [scouting@vfw.org](mailto:scouting@vfw.org)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



**Department of Connecticut Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States**

**P.O. BOX 429 Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (860)616-2360 Fax: (860) 616-2364  
hqct@vfw.necoxmail.com vfwct.org**

Please sign up for the Action Corps. We need all of our members to respond to positive and also unpopular bills concerning Veterans, our military and our national security. It's just a few clicks of the mouse on your computer and will make a huge difference in the way our representatives in DC vote. Please go to [www.vfw.org/actioncorps](http://www.vfw.org/actioncorps) today to sign up.



**Become a Veterans' Advocate.**

Join the VFW Action Corps and receive the VFW Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter and all VFW Action Alerts.

[www.vfw.org/ActionCorps](http://www.vfw.org/ActionCorps)

- Receive weekly updates on the VFW's efforts in D.C.
- Be involved with pressing issues through Action Alerts.
- Track and communicate with your elected officials.

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS:**

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

[twitter.com/vfwhq](https://twitter.com/vfwhq)

[facebook.com/vfwfans](https://facebook.com/vfwfans)

[youtube.com/vfwvids](https://youtube.com/vfwvids)



# Veterans Hotline – (800) 273-8255 (TALK)

To ensure veterans with mental health crises have immediate access to trained coordinators, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established a 24-hour national [Suicide Prevention Hotline](#), manned by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Veterans in crisis can call 1-800-273-TALK, (1-800-273-8255) press option #1, and be linked to the Veterans Crisis Line and a crisis intervention professional. Hotline staff provide immediate help and will link callers to mental health services, including suicide prevention coordinators located at every VA medical center.

## Veterans Online Chat:

“Chat” live online with a crisis counselor. The online chat service is available 24/7. [Click here](#) and then click on the “Veterans Chat” link.

or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from the Veterans Crisis Line.

## General Questions About VA Medical Benefits:

Veterans who are not in crisis, but who have questions about medical benefits or who need information about their closest VA medical facility should

- [How We Help](#)
- [Signs of Crisis](#)
- [Resources and Support](#)
- [About](#)

## 24/7, confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one?

You're not alone—the Veterans Crisis Line is here for you. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to call.