

Veterans & Family Support Promotion #1 | July 2022

Renee Fulk

2022-2023 National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador

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My name is Renee Fulk and I am the National Ambassador for the Veterans & Family Support Program.

I have been a member of the Auxiliary since March 1999 under the eligibility of my husband, Earl Fulk, who served in the United States Navy and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. I am a Life Member of VFW Auxiliary to Dana Point Post 9934. I have served in many elected and appointed positions at the Auxiliary, District and Department levels, and served as 2012-2013 Department President. I also served as 2015-2017 National District Council Member Area G and I am serving as the 2022-2023 Department of California Secretary.

I retired from the University of California Irvine in July 2015 after 16 years of employment (and 30 years of experience in accounting) as the manager of approximately 10 staff who performed pre- and post-award administration for research contracts and grants in the schools of Information and Computer Sciences and Engineering.

In the position of National Ambassador, I plan to work diligently with the VFW to keep all of you up to date with current and relevant information, project ideas and whatever else is required to ensure this Program is successful. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

I am a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and currently serve on the Board of Trustees for District 12 which includes the Departments of California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. My 6-year term will end October 2023.

Program Goals:

- VFW National Veterans Service
- VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs
- Assist Veterans, Service Members and Their Families
- Promote Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Veterans and Family Support Program. This year, I am placing a special emphasis on supporting the caregivers of veterans. This includes veterans' family members, often our own members, who provide care and support for their veteran who have physical and non-physical scars from their service to our country. Please do some research and review the VA website to provide guidance and assistance to the caregivers in your Auxiliary and in your community. The website is caregiver.va.gov/.

September is suicide awareness month. However, veteran suicide is something we need to have in the forefront of our minds every day. Make sure you have the following information for

the Veterans Crisis Line in your phone contacts in the event you meet a veteran who needs help.

- The number of the Veterans Crisis number 1-800-273-8255 and press 1
- Chat online at veteranscrisilne.net
- Send a text message to 838255

For more information, please go to <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>.
If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.