April 24, 2020

TO: **National Executive Committee Members, National Officers, National Chairmen, Past National Presidents**

CC: **Department Presidents; Department Secretaries, NHQ Staff**

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: **Weekly Briefing 4-24-2020**

**To all of our Members – THANK YOU!!** This week (April 19-25) is National Volunteer Week and I’m happy to take this opportunity to thank all our members for all the hard work you do. Even with all the restrictions, unit members are finding ways to reach out and continue carrying out our mission. From buddy check calls to providing meals to making masks, there’s no stopping our members from doing what they do best – care and support our veterans, military, and their families. My life has been forever changed because of the wonderful examples of selflessness and generosity I witness daily from our members and I cannot thank you enough for the positive impact you’ve made on me personally.

There were a few questions about the continuation of our Centennial Year. While the year-end reports are NOT due this year, impact numbers ARE still being collected. Department information is due to national headquarters by **June 1st**.

A short video (called a Public Service Announcement, or PSA) about National Poppy Day has been delivered to the VA for the Veterans News Network (VNN). This is the first of a series of videos we will be sending to the VA. Based on the unique daily outpatient visits for at participating VA medical centers (VAMCs) prior to the COVID outbreak, our videos will potentially put us in front of about 1.7 million veterans each month who are receiving care at a VA facility.

**Military Spouse appreciation day** is Friday, **May 8**.  A simple thank you and acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by military spouses is always appreciated.  Send a card, drop off a meal or planter of flowers for the porch.  You could also send a gift card in the mail, pay for a meal delivery, have your kids mow their lawn or spread their mulch if you live nearby.  Lastly, many military spouses have a hard time finding work, so perhaps you could connect them with someone you know who might be hiring; even if they are not hiring right now.  Many people have unexpected time for networking right now, so it is a good time to help a military spouse build their professional network.

Thank you again for all that you do!