

*** VAVS SERVICE AWARD ***

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY
VOLUNTEER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM**

The Veterans Administration Voluntary Service Award for Leadership was first presented in 1963 by Hy and Sue Rosen, Past National Commandant and Auxiliary President, as a trophy to be awarded each year at the National Assembly to the Auxiliary member chosen by the VAVS Committee as most deserving of this award for leadership in the VA Hospital program. Ours was the first organization of the National VAVS Advisory Committee to establish such an award. Volunteers in our VAVS Program are the key people who represent us at the VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and the many Community programs sanctioned by the Department of Veterans Affairs. We believe they should be given special recognition for outstanding activities, excellence in carrying out their programs, as well as providing leadership when necessary, in order to make life easier for the hospitalized veteran, outpatient, homeless or one in a nursing home under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The original trophy was retired in August 1978 at the National Convention in Milwaukee, and replaced with a similar trophy by Hy and Sue Rosen, with stipulation that henceforth winner(s) shall be a member of the League and/or Auxiliary. Smaller trophies were also provided the last of which was given to the 1999 winner. The regular trophy was lost during the move from temporary to permanent headquarters after the fire in 1993 and renovation completed in 1994.

To preserve the record of winners, a large plaque showing winners should replace the trophy, and be displayed permanently at National Headquarters, with individual plaques or certificates given to winners at discretion of the National VAVS Representatives and Deputies of the League and Auxiliary and past winners.

Winners each year at National Convention shall be chosen by the National VAVS Representatives and Deputies of both the League and Auxiliary, and any interested previous winners present at that Convention. Names will not be divulged until the annual VAVS meeting during Convention, and shall be included in the printed proceedings of both the League and Auxiliary Convention. If no current nominee is able to meet the criteria, the Committee may review nominees for the two previous years. The Committee reserves the right to choose one who has not been properly sponsored but meets other criteria - the vote must be 100% in such case.

Criteria for eligibility to be chosen as the outstanding volunteer of the year in the VAVS Program are:

1. Must be a member in good standing to be chosen as the outstanding volunteer of the year.
2. Must have served on a regular basis in a VA Hospital, outpatient Clinic, or other properly certified area for a period of at least three (3) years.
3. Must meet attendance requirements for VAVS quarterly meetings if a currently certified Representative or Deputy.
4. Must have a letter of recommendation submitted to the Committee by a VAMC Director, Chief of Voluntary Service, or other qualified staff, and by the Unit or Detachment, describing works, programs, special activities, which they feel make that person an excellent nominee. Qualifications should include one or more of the following: outstanding hours, special programs, leadership, manner in which patients are cared for, or other service provided which significantly adds to the better care of veteran patients under the VAVS Program.

Recommendations should be sent to your National League or Auxiliary VAVS Representative no later than July 10.

(Rev. 3/01)

