

Knights of Columbus — VAVS Program

Serving Those Who Served

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program is the vehicle that the Knights of Columbus uses in the Serving Those Who Served program. The Vice President for Fraternal Services has oversight of the VAVS program. The program is directed and managed by the Assistant for Military and Veterans Affairs who also serves as the National VAVS Representative to the VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC). The K of C VAVS program is executed through the Fourth Degree chain of command through the U.S. vice Supreme Masters and District Masters. Under the program, a Knight of Columbus is certified as a VAVS representative or deputy representative at a VA medical center. Our certified representatives and deputy representatives attend hospital meetings and organize efforts for K of C volunteers.

The Knights of Columbus currently has VAVS representatives at almost every VA medical center (VAMC) and many clinics in the United States. There is one certified representative and, up to, three deputy representatives from the Knights of Columbus at these VAMCs. Representatives recruit and manage K of C VAVS volunteers in developing activities and programs that target the most essential needs of the patients.

In 2014, our Assembly donated ten wheelchairs to the local VA Clinic in Cape Coral, hundreds of personal hygiene items for the homeless Vets in Lee County, and hundreds of man hours of volunteer services to the VAVS program here in SW Florida.

The philosophy behind "Serving Those Who Served" is simple: the men and women of the Armed Forces didn't let the Nation down on the battlefield, and the Knights of Columbus will not let these veterans down now.

For more information about the local VAVS program in Lee and Collier Counties, Please call our local VAVS rep, George Pacharis at 239-777-5561 or email at chalkpoint@gmail.com.