



# VFW NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES UPDATE

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## VFW Ladies Auxiliary Helps Hospitalized Veterans Connect with Families

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The Haley House in Tampa, Fla., provides a temporary home to the family members of veterans who are in the specialized ward at the James Haley VA Center’s Spinal Cord, Traumatic Brain and Blast Injury Treatment Center.

Auxiliary 9236, out of Hernando Beach, Fla., works directly with the treatment center patients and their families who stay at the Haley House. Thanks to **VFW Operation Uplink™**, the Auxiliary was able to provide 40 Sprint virtual PINS for the Center, equaling about 4,000 minutes of talk time.



“Sometimes families arrive in the middle of the night after a long drive or plane trip. Their one thought is of their patient and often can use these minutes to call other family members or relatives,” said Auxiliary President Kathy Moore.

“It would have been great to have had this type of support from home during Vietnam. In Desert Storm, we had the support, but not the capability to phone home often enough,” said Russ Moore, Commander of VFW Post 9236.

The Haley House receives no funding from any government entity; only private donations. They take any family members of wounded warriors that are 50 miles or over from home and are suffering with financial constraints.

“Operation Uplink has long been one of the finest projects the VFW does for its military. Whether it be the free phone days overseas or providing minutes at a domestic VA hospital, the VFW and Ladies Auxiliaries are surely honoring the dead by helping the living. Just a few moments on the phone to home or to a friend can really lift the spirits of a wounded warrior,” Moore concluded.

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