



SUPREME SEAM SQUIRREL'S AND SUPREME PRESIDENT'S



Joint Mission Special Project 2023-2024

Keep' em Vertical Operation Big Boot

This mission has been developed to reduce the Veteran Suicide Rate commonly referred to as "22 a day". We need to do what we can to get that number to zero. Understand that I have no illusions that we will ever get to that number. It is time we as Cooties and Auxiliaries try to do something about it. We will never know the true impact of our efforts until after we have tried it. However, we must start somewhere. The reason for the boot being utilized as the symbol is that we need to show the Veterans they are not alone, and we will help walk with them through their journey to recovery. So, please embrace the idea and intent behind this effort and make a conjoined effort to "Keep'em Vertical" by "Putting Boots on the Ground", so we can "Keep'em Smilin' in Beds of White", when the time comes.

So how will this mission work: Every Grand MOC/Grand MOC Auxiliary, East & West Area Black Pup Tents, and Auxiliaries not in a Grand need to do an event that is geared towards the awareness of Veterans Mental Health Issues and the prevention of Veteran Suicides. Funds raised will remain in your State/Area and be donated to an organization that helps in Veterans Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention. As many of you know what is needed in your area and how to help those veterans.

What is Required: Report the event with the minimum information on the attached Form. It is fashioned somewhat like the Hospital report. If your organization is already doing that, then you are ahead of the game.

Types of Events that meet the requirements:

- Fundraisers specifically for Veteran Mental Health Awareness and the prevention of Veteran Suicide.
- An event that provides a forum / meeting to address Veteran's Issues.
- Assisting another Organization with an event addressing the issues.
- Attending another event as a group (not an individual) geared toward the issues.
- Any other event that may be outside the box and reviewed by the Committee as acceptable.
- If you have a Fundraiser and cannot find a worthy place for donation you may send it to Supreme MOC Quartermaster or Supreme MOCA Treasurer and earmark it for Operation Big Boot and we will donate to an organization that is helping with this cause.

Simply donating money will not meet the requirements of this Mission. This is meant to be an "attend and do something" Mission. **Get Involved!**

This is your program to help our veterans.

All reports from will be sent to the Operation Big Boot Chair – Luther Sawicki, email: luthersawicki@gmail.com. Phone: (440) 228-8594. **MOCA send a copy to:** Billie Cassidy, bscassidy@tds.net, Phone: (931) 628-1774

Acknowledgement:

All Operation Big Boot reports received by the “Big Boot” Chair will be reviewed by the Operation Big Boot to determine level of commitment to “Keep’em Vertical” and will receive one of the following Certificates:



Red Boot Certificate – Participating in the Mission and submitting the form.



White Boot Certificate – Participating in the Mission and submitting the form with a separate report for the event.



Gold Boot Certificate – Participating in the Mission and submitting the form with a separate detailed report for the event.

(These Certificates will be awarded one per area as described in Supreme Policy for electing the Junior Vice Commander.)

- Pacific Area** - (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, PAC, UT, WA, WY)
- Central Area** - (AL, AR, IA, KS, LA, MN, MS, MO, OK, NE, ND, SD, TN, TX)
- Northern Area** - (CT, IL, IN, KY, MA, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, RI, VT)
- Atlantic Area** - (DC, DE, EUR, FL, GA, MD, NC, PA, SC, VA, WV)



Big Gold Boot Award – Will be chosen by the Committee and awarded to the one Pup Tent/Auxiliary that portrayed the true meaning and intent of this mission by working together and with others.

So Lets

“Keep ‘em Vertical” by

“Putting Boots on the Ground”

so we can

“Keep ‘em Smilin’ in Beds of White”



Operation Big Boot Event

Grand/Area: _____ Date of Event: _____

Location of Event: _____

of other Groups Present: _____ Amount Raised (if a fundraising event): _____

Other Groups Present: _____

of Cooties Present: _____ # Auxiliary Members: _____ Total Number Attendees: _____

Description of Event: _____



Operation Big Boot Event

Grand/Area: _____ Date of Event: _____

Location of Event: _____

of other Groups Present: _____ Amount Raised (if a fundraising event): _____

Other Groups Present: _____

of Cooties Present: _____ # Auxiliary Members: _____ Total Number Attendees: _____

Description of Event: _____