

'The Support Meant the World to My Family'

The VFW's Unmet Needs program helped keep the lights on for Air Force veteran Roxanne Payne

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From the age of 17, Roxanne Payne knew she wanted to work in the government and decided to join the military. She served four years active duty at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. Today, she still lives in the Las Vegas area along with her children Djibril, Lovely and Jaylan. Her other daughter Deja is in the Army and is stationed at Fort Hood, where she lives with Payne's two grandchildren Ryker and Harmony.

Following service, Payne suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress and military sexual trauma. Recently, she experienced a divorce and contracted COVID-19.

Searching for support, Payne learned about the VFW Unmet Needs program through her local Veterans Affairs office and was pleased by the easy application process. The aid came through at just the right time and helped pay Payne's electricity bill.

"The support really meant the world to me and my family. I do ride share to supplement my income since I'm recently divorced," she explained.

As she recovered from COVID-19, Payne was unable to drive and faced financial hardship.

"I wasn't prepared," she said. "The help kept our lights on. I can't imagine what would have happened if they were turned off."

Knowing what a difference the support can make, Payne encourages those who can to give to the VFW.

"If you're in a position to donate, know that it will be well utilized and appreciated by veterans who find themselves in need," she said. "We are very grateful for the assistance. On behalf of my family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

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Learn more about the [VFW's Unmet Needs program](#).