



Department President's Message



November 2023

Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary – We are *“THE BEAST FROM THE EAST!”* Thank you for showing up and participating in the Eastern Conference! The State of Maryland had the highest number of members in attendance at the Conference. Our Maryland Pilgrims sang “This Land is Your Land” and we gave some pointers and tips for ways to promote the Auxiliary Outreach Program. We also gave examples of things that counted or were reportable in the program and things that would not count for the program. As November begins, let us be reminded that we can only sing that song because of our Veterans and the sacrifices they have and continue to make every day for our freedoms.

The month of November is known as National Veterans and Military Family Month, Warrior Care Month, and National Family Caregivers Month. Happy birthday to the US Marine Corps on November 10th. *And of course, on November 11th, the day we honor the veterans of the US Armed Forces.* Other less commonly known celebrations for November include World Freedom Day – 11/9, National Sundae Day – 11/11 and World Kindness Day – 11/13.



I have enjoyed visiting the Auxiliaries and Districts. You all are doing some amazing and wonderful things. Please remember to REPORT them to our Department Chairman. I know for most, I am preaching to the choir but when reporting, please make sure to complete the hours, round trip mileage, project costs, and number of volunteers. If your auxiliary is one in which you do not have chairpersons, *please use your auxiliary president's name, email address and phone number as a point of contact for the Department Chairperson to contact for any questions they may have.*



Please send pictures from my official visits, your auxiliary events and fundraisers to our Department Historian, Dorothy Swigon & Department Secretary Libby DallaTezza so that we can include them on our website, social media platforms, and for my scrapbook. In



some cases, pictures tell the best stories of our organization.



District Presidents, please remember to send me a copy of your visit/inspection reports as you complete them. Please understand that the integrity of our organization depends on your honest unbiased opinions. We cannot help or mentor auxiliaries if we do not know there is a problem. Members, please ask for help or assistance, if you or your auxiliary need it.

Please remember that the purpose of the visits is NOT to criticize or find fault, we just want each and every auxiliary to function like a well-oiled machine. We may at times break down and need a little bit of WD-40, a small tug to get us unstuck, or a gentle nudge to get us back up and running smoothly. *Always remember the common goal of all auxiliary members and that is to serve veterans and their families.*

If by chance you still have my Gmail account listed in your contacts, please remove it. My updated email address is a comcast.net email address. If you do not have it, please contact me or a member of Team M & M to give it to you.

THANK YOU so much for your dedication to our organization and to improving the lives of our veterans and their families. I am grateful for everything that each of you does to better their lives.

Remember to practice Goodwill. Goodwill is defined as a friendly, helpful, cooperative, and positive attitude toward others. *And remember to BE HAPPY – not because everything is good but because you can find the good in everything!*



May your Thanksgiving holiday be blessed with all of the things that matter – good food, great moments that will transcend into memories and family – whether it be by blood or by love!