

Hospital Promotion #1 | July 2024
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2024-2025 National Hospital Ambassador
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I am a little ray of sunshine and your National Hospital Ambassador Paulette “Polly” McCord from Oklahoma.

I joined the Auxiliary in 1988 on the eligibility of my husband William F. McCord Jr. retired Air Force who served in both Korea and Vietnam. I was married for 27 years before my husband's death. We have one daughter and four grandchildren who are members of VFW Auxiliary 3649 in Wilburton, Oklahoma. In addition, I have four great-grandchildren and future Auxiliary members.

I was the Department of Oklahoma President in 2021-2022. I have been involved with every National Program and have always felt that the Hospital Program was my calling.

The Hospital Program is one of the oldest Programs in our organization. We host fundraisers and say, “All right, we did our part.” But there is more to the Program. It is about the veteran.

This year we are going back to the basics. We are going to be a little ray of sunshine for the veterans in the VA centers and hospitals. We know what the veterans have done for us. Now it is our turn to do for the veteran.

This is where WE as Auxiliary volunteers play a huge role. We are the ones who will bridge the gap between the family and the veteran.

I know that everyone cannot visit a veterans center, but you can participate by making things and sending them. Get in touch with the activity director and see if they can help you with different ideas for items they may need. It does not have to be a holiday to participate at the veterans center; every day is a good day. This way they know someone cares. Sometimes the smallest things mean the most.

I am looking forward to seeing what you can create to make their lives better. Ask your older home-bound members if they would sew or knit something to take to the centers for our veterans. This is a way to let them feel they are needed and be involved.

I cannot wait to see what you can do with this Program. Think outside the box. Remember, a hospital or VA center is more than a brick building. It is the home of a veteran.