



Setting Sail For Our Veterans



It is an honor to have been elected to lead this Department as your President for the 2024-2025 Auxiliary year. I am truly excited to be working alongside each of you to continue the tradition of outstanding service to our veterans that this Department is known for. You, the members of this organization are the ones that are making a difference in our Veterans lives and will guarantee that we have another great year. I look forward to working with Commander Joe Chicillo and his team to further assist our veterans and supporting the VFW in anyway the Auxiliary can.

Our incoming National President Brenda Bryant's theme is "*From Our Roots to Our Branches.*" We may not always agree on everything, but we will "Extend Service to Our Veterans". We joined this wonderful organization for our Veterans, so we will dig our Roots in. My theme is "*Setting Sail For Our Veterans*". My personal pin is a Sailboat with the Maryland Flag as the sail.

My Special Project is "Patriot Point" located in Madison, Maryland on the Eastern Shore. Patriot Point is a coastal waterfront retreat for our recovering service members. It is the Military Bowl Foundation's 294-acre retreat that provides a relaxing and safe environment for our nation's wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and caregivers. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, Patriot Point works with veteran and military service organizations to help guests heal through organized recreational activities and peer-to-peer communication. Past retreats for these veterans have been crabbing, fishing, fitness training, hunting, kayaking, paddle boarding, skeet shooting and target shooting.

I am looking forward to visiting each District and as many auxiliaries as time allows. I plan to attend as many auxiliary and post events, so please extend an invitation to me to let me know what you are planning so I can put it on my calendar.

Thank you.

Debbie Sturgis

Department of Maryland President 2024-2025