

# CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES

## NARRATIVE

Department of Florida

2015-2016

For an American Legion Auxilliary committee that doesn't require a mid-term or year-end report, I was invigorated by the response in the grand state of Florida! Eleven out of the 16 Districts in the State of Florida responded: Districts # 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16!

Here are some of the highlights of the great work that the Cavalcade committees have done during this term.

Unit #221 Niceville, representing the 1st District, has a special quad display there they feature the 3 active ladies of their Unit that are dual-members. The 4th section of the quad display features a vase with Poppies in remembrance of all Veterans.

Unit #373 Keystone Heights, representing District #5 displays a Purple Heart memorial in front of their Post. They also hold a year-end Memorial Ceremony honoring members who have passed on to Unit everlasting.

Unit #347 Lady Lake, representing District #6 advertises to the membership for donations of non-returnable memorabilia. This included letters and documents with historical significance to the Unit. They have taken pictures with members holding the framed items from their family members. One picture is of a family member's discharge papers. The items were photographed, catalogued and now available on DVD. Chairman Donna McGlone expressed as many Units have done, the difficulties in locating Unit items due to the many moves that the Unit has made over the years.

Unit #220 Ft. Lauderdale representing District #9 provided a wonderful group picture of members wearing their Unit #220 hats! I am guessing that the picture was taken circa 1970's. They have put out a yeoman's effort to identify the members in the picture by visiting a local museum and woman's club in hopes of getting more information on their Unit pioneers!

Unit #40 Ft. Pierce, representing District #12, has a glass display case which contains books with pictures and articles of items past to present. They have a grandmother's service hat with the blue star on it, and two more hats from past presidents. Another member provided her grandmother's President's ring and a letter received from the President of the United States!

Unit #323 Lehigh Acres representing District #13 have a wall dedicated to Cavalcade of Memories. On it are pictures of past officers and past District and Unit Presidents. There is also a collage of old photos donated by many of the members.

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Unit # 14 St. Petersburg representing District #16 displays their most recent awards in the canteen. As new awards are earned, the older ones are filed in a cabinet for safe-keeping.

Also from District #16, New Port Richey Unit #79 has a wall display featuring Past Presidents, including Past Department President, Ruth Bosben. Pictures and histories are placed on CD's for safe keeping. They maintain a container of memorabilia from Past Department Presidents' themes!

Gulfport Unit #125 suffered a devastating fire where many memories were lost. They have begun to rebuild their heritage by displaying the Charter, established in 1948, and Unit Presidents pictures in the Post dining hall. It is noted that this Unit has recorded meeting minutes from 1954. They also are proud that their dinners supported the Girls State program and Penny Auction funded other Unit programs throughout the years, the earliest notation of these fund-raisers is 1946!

Treasure Island Unit #158 has established a photo/scrapbook viewable in the Auxiliary area of the Post. The oldest continuous programs in the Unit are the Poppy program, Christmas Angel Tree, and Children and Youth program.

Unit #275 Dunedin was chartered in 1959. It's oldest program is the Cash Bash which started in the early 2000's and funds many of the efforts of the service committees. A Unit Past Presidents display is also updated each year.

I wish to thank every District and every Unit that took the time to honor our members by displaying the rich history of the American Legion Auxiliary.

For God and Country,

Robin J. Burk, Chairman  
Department of Florida  
Cavalcade of Memories