

Department of Florida CHAPLAIN'S YEAR END REPORT
2015 – 2016

As the Palm Trees sway in the wind, our Chaplains are working hard for our veterans and for our Department President Pearl. Our Chaplains were busy preparing to make sure that the Veterans throughout Florida are taken care of and that the Palm Trees provide shade for them from the sun. We had 100% of our Districts reporting, due to the assistance of some Units who sent reports directly to me instead of their District Chaplain. One District sent their report in with no information, but attached the unit reports, so I was able to do the calculations for them and include them in my report. The District Chaplains and the Unit Chaplains came together for the Veterans and began to spread the faith to all the members throughout the State of Florida. I am proud and humbled to be in the position of Chaplain for the Department of Florida and hope that you will see how hard everyone has been working.

Florida had 16 District Chaplains and 2 Unit Chaplains reporting (which is why we achieved 16 Districts reporting) . As the Chaplains continued to spread the Lord's faith to those who were ill, they made 561 visitations. When they were unable to visit, they sent 1,569 Get Well Cards and 577 Thinking of you Cards to the members and/or family members. 469 Grace Cards were handed out at a number of locations. Our Chaplains also sent 172 Congratulation Cards and 126 Other types of card.

Districts and Units have donated to Memorial Funds and to the Four Chaplains Chapel. 46 Units participated in Four Chaplains ceremonies and they also participated in Memorial Services for both members and Veterans, along with participating in 53 Wreaths Across America Services, 90 Veterans Day Services, 110 Memorial Day Services, Department President's Visitations, National President Visitations, 20 POW/MIA Services, 5, 911 Memorial Services, 8 Pearl Harbor Day Services, Flag Burning Ceremonies and Viet Nam Wall Reunion Service, Woman's Club Function, Chamber of Commerce Function, and Women Veterans Luncheons. We had Units reporting that they Draped their Charters 140 times for deceased members. Units have also placed markers on graves during Vet. Week at Dunnellon

Memorial Gardens. One unit reported that they send plants to members in the Hospital, in lieu of cards and that the florist they use gives them 10% back as long as they mention the unit number.

Unfortunately we had 443 members in the Department of Florida pass away this year, including our Past National President Helen Gardner. A special tribute will be done in the Memorial Service at Convention (June 19, 2016) for her.

As Department Chaplain, I attended many Memorial Services, and this year had to perform 2 Funeral Services for the 6th District. I have sent 200 Get Well, 130 Sympathy and 120 Thinking of You, along with Birthday Cards to all Past Department Presidents throughout Florida, and also throughout the Country. I have also sent a number of Get Well Wishes, Prayers, and Sympathy notices on behalf of the Department of Florida via face book and email. I have tried to list everything that I did during the year, however since I was so busy, I lost track of who I sent those notices for, but you will see that as your Department Chaplain, I have tried to represent the Department of Florida to the best of my ability.

I am very proud of all the Chaplains in the Department of Florida and I am very humbled to be a part of such a great network throughout the country.

Our National Chaplain has kept us informed of many members throughout the country who have undergone surgeries and tragedies in their lives. She has also sent inspirational notes to the Chaplains throughout the Nation, which has helped us to keep our spirits up and keep moving forward.

I would like to Thank everyone, personally, for all their love and support as I continue on the journey that the Lord has given to me for caring for my Husband Rene'. It is a feeling that I cannot describe to have such a wonderful family that is so caring and supportive. Without all of you both here in Florida and throughout the Nation, I don't think that I would be as strong as I am. Thank you all and God Bless you all.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois J. Stachelrodt
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida Chaplain

All Awards will be announced at Convention.