



American Legion Auxiliary

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

It is hard to believe this year is coming to an end. I hope your convention will be a time of celebration and recognition -- a time to celebrate all of the wonderful things you have done this year, and a time to recognize those who have contributed to your success. Your department, units, and members have helped to keep our 95-year-old mission alive by enhancing the lives of our veterans and their families, mentoring our children and youth, being visible in our communities, and keeping the spirit of patriotism and love of country alive.

Throughout the year, I've had many opportunities to reflect on my theme "Celebrating Faith, Family, and Freedom," especially during the World War II Memorial wreath laying at the Washington DC Conference. As I placed that wreath and said a little prayer and thank-you to my dad, I could feel the tears coming. It was an incredibly special moment, as that ceremony once again reminded me that we must never take for granted the freedoms we have as citizens of this great nation. As I go about my day-to-day life, I know I'm able to go where I want to go, be who I want to be, and say what I want to say because of those who fought for our great nation. It is genuinely humbling.

This has been an incredible year serving as national president. Thank you for your hospitality and friendship. My visits to VA facilities, state homes, homeless shelters, and transitional housing units reminded me why we have to keep the American Legion Auxiliary a strong and growing organization. We need to continue making a difference in people's lives for the next 100 years. We must never waver in our commitment to serve our veterans, youth, and our communities. Our Centennial Strategic Plan is a crucial part of keeping our mission alive. I urge you to think about the goals of your department's strategic plan and discuss how you can work together to accomplish your goals.

In the meantime, as you go about your day-to-day activities, remember our commitment as members of the American Legion Auxiliary to honor those who protect our freedoms. We can't forget, and we must not let our country, and especially our youth, forget. We need to keep patriotism alive everywhere we go so none of us will forget how thankful we should be to live in a country as great as ours.

To those of you who served our country in uniform, thank you so much. May God bless each of you, and may He continue to bless this great country which we are privileged to call home.

Janet Jefford
National President
2014-2015