



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## Department of North Carolina



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. I love the cool crisp air and beautiful colors. For me, Fall signals the beginning of the holiday season and boy do we have a lot to celebrate this year. Most importantly we have a lot to be thankful for, even though this year was rough, we can be thankful, grateful, and happy.

Our celebration begins with: Happy Birthday American Legion Auxiliary, Happy Veterans Day, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. If that is not enough to celebrate, then do not forget that there is a new Auxiliary Holiday on November 14. This holiday will remind members to read their governing documents. November 14, 2020 was designated as ALA Read Your Constitution and Bylaws Day. The National Constitution and Bylaws Committee has challenged members to read the national C&B in front of landmarks across the country. Members are encouraged to send a photo to National C&B Chairman Trish Ward at [tbw\\_ksauz@yahoo.com](mailto:tbw_ksauz@yahoo.com)

Units are typically busy this time of year collecting items needed for our homeless veterans, serving meals to our veterans, making Christmas goodie bags, food drives etc. I know that many of you have already figured out ways to make your holiday traditions and activities COVID safe. My Legion Family in Salisbury is known for our annual handicapped children's party. Each year our Legion Family provides a party, entertainment, and individualized gifts for 100 handicapped children in our area. This year it may look different for this activity as we plan to deliver goodie bags and individualized gifts to the schools for the teacher to distribute. Working our mission will never change just the way we are able to carry out the mission.

Two Legion- Backed bills addressing veteran suicide become law a couple of weeks ago. On Oct. 17, "President Trump signed S. 785, the "Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019" and S. 2661, the "National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020" into law. The legislation was supported by The American Legion. The VA estimates that around 20 veterans die by suicide each day." The American Legion is now asking Congress to unanimously pass the Buddy Check-in Bill. If this legislation passes the VA's will be required to establish a "Buddy Check Week". The bill would also require the VA to provide educational opportunities on how to conduct personal wellness checks and to expand resources for the Veterans Crisis Line. Please show your support of the American Legion by contacting your senators and representatives. Please do your own personal Buddy Check this Holiday Season. Reach out to someone this week to see how they are doing. Both laws and the Buddy Check-in Bill will help our veterans who are suffering from PTSD. Thank you for supporting the Legion's efforts to make this possible.

For God and Country,  
ALA Proud and Strong,

Julie