

A Bit About Me, Margie Lindberg, Dept. of WA Hospital Chair

First a personal note:

1. I am a **Brand New Grandma** (for the very first time) to Adrian Elias!!
He is MY HEART!!
2. I love cats! I like all animals, but cats are my favorite.
3. My favorite color is pink! You will also see me a lot of pink/purple/fuchsia tones all spring and summer. (Very occasionally turquoise/ teals.) In fall and winter I do reds and blacks. It's an east coast thing about what I wear and when, (I stretch it a bit because the weather here is milder.)
4. I love all foods, in any order: steak, pizza, Italian, Mexican, ice cream, bourbon, wine, chocolate, San Pellegrino, and Smart Water.
5. I drive a Big Red Jeep, but I think of her as a sports car, and she acts like one!
6. I like to stay up late and sleep in – 11:00-12:00ish is my usual get time, but I can get up and go when I need to.
7. I love to go to the beach! I also enjoy the woods and all nature. (My knees and hips don't always cooperate.)
8. I like to read historical nonfiction, ghost stories, and trashy historical romance novels – bodice busters.
9. I like inspirational and prayerful quotes and sayings.
10. I Love Lists! I like being straight forward and transparent.

I have always had a special place in my heart for our military personnel, veterans, and veterans' families for many personal reasons. The Department of Washington formally serves five hospitals and 3 veteran's homes.

(Of course all veterans, no matter where they are patients or residents, they are remembered and served.)

Though I never served in a military branch, my family has always had many close ties; which I am grateful for. I was born and raised in Buffalo, NY by my parents, Ida & Stephen, along with my 3 siblings; Stephen Jr., Michael, & Mary Grace. Mom and Dad were both first generation of American born citizens of their respective families and they raised us with a strong sense of duty to our family and America. My brother Michael, and eventually 2 of my nephews all served in various branches of the military; securing lifelong skills and careers to this present day.

I came to the west coast in 1979 to visit and help Steven Jr. and his wife transition to their new life in the Seattle area. During that time, I met my husband, Dick (served in USN) and 40 years later, we are still very comfortable and happily married. We raised our two children, Gina & Adam (served in USN), in the same house we still currently reside in. We enjoy spending time in our garden, relaxing at the beaches of the Pacific Ocean, volunteering with the West Hill

Community Association, and cuddling our sweet cats, Sparks and Murphy. We are now both retired; Dick after 36 years at Boeing and I after 29 years as a Para educator in the Renton School District. Our children, now both adults, are still close to home and we see them often. Gina & her husband, Jared, are expecting their first child; our first grandchild! Adam is our world traveler. He always finds his way home, but we enjoy hearing of his adventures across Southeast Asia where he frequently travels during the winter.

As I mentioned, I have always held a special regard for active service members and veterans and I believe in volunteerism as a service of gratitude. In the past, I have volunteered at the USO Center at the Seattle Tacoma International Airport (10 years) and with the Seattle Navy League (5 years). Most recently, I volunteer with the VFW Auxiliary. I was invited to become a member many years ago by my dear friend and mentor Judy Leu. During my time with the VFW Auxiliary, I have served as:

- * Chaplain for VFW Auxiliary 9474
- * Chaplain for District 11
- * Senior Vice at Skyway VFW Post Auxiliary 9430
- * Membership Chair AUX 9430
- * Legislative Chair AUX 9430

I am eager to take on this responsibility, while knowing and understanding that I am not doing this alone. I have many mentors to look to for help and advice, and a team of dedicated Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, VAVS Representatives.

The new opportunity of supporting the hospitals, VA Homes, and all veteran patients, holds a very special place in my heart. While serving as a soldier in World War II, my father was taken as a prisoner at the Battle of the Bulge and held in a German prison concentration camp for about seven months. Understandably he never shared much about his experiences. The VAMC in Buffalo, NY took wonderful care of my father until his death. Additionally, our son, Adam, was very well cared for at the Seattle VA Spinal Cord Injury Unit due to a rare spinal virus, Transverse Myelitis, shortly after his service period and some time college.

I was quite honored when Madam President Marjorie Stetson asked me to serve as the Hospital Chair for the Department of Washington. I know that I have the support of Madam President Stetson, as well as many other members, with years of experience will help me along this journey.