

Department President's Message #3
November 2021

How do you feel about your commitment as a member of the VFW Auxiliary?

In 2015, when I was struggling to decide if I should run for Department Guard, the Elders at church passed out a plate of stars – all turned face down. After a quick prayer I chose my star and turned it over. The word printed on there was “Commitment”. I felt I had my answer. That star is stuck in a corner of my mirror at home, and I see it every day. When my resolve waivers I remind myself that I can do more than I ever thought I could, and I am committed to do so. I hope you are able to hold on to a similar feeling of resolve when it comes to serving our veterans.

Thank you to the Districts I have visited so far, for the many courtesies that have been extended to me. I can tell that you put forward your best effort to have Presidents, Officers, and members there, and I love meeting all of you! Some were fairly new to a District meeting, and it was great to see their enthusiasm!

I hope you are planning to go to Midwinter Conference on Jan 14-15, 2022, in Yakima at the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center. We will have a MALTA training at noon on Friday the 14th. You can order a sack lunch from Auxiliary 379 for \$7.00. (See the flyer in these General Orders.) Our Tentative Schedule is included: Please check it out and see what time you need to be there.

The Midwinter Scholarship Awards Banquet attire will be formal or semi-formal. Don't stress about it – just look nice so our students will leave with a good impression. They always dress to impress, and we want to do the same.

Joint Project - COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE – REMEMBER THE 13 FALLEN.

I would like the Auxiliaries to join with the Posts in contributing to our joint project – the Commander's Challenge to “Remember the 13 Fallen” service members killed in the attack at Kabul, Afghanistan, when the last troops were withdrawn. The families affected may be helped by the National Home, so this Fundraiser for the National Home runs until March 31, 2022. See the enclosed Flyer, but **Send your donation to our Dept. Treasurer, Cindy Burkey, at PO Box 13193 Spokane Valley, WA 99213.**
This satisfies our Circle of Excellence criteria to hold a joint project with the Post.

(President's Message continued ...)

Official Cap Guidelines

In the absence of procedures in our By-Laws for wearing the official cap, National President Jean Hamil has issued the following ruling:

"If you choose to wear the Official VFW Auxiliary Cap, it will remain on your head for TAPS, The Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem. Caps will be removed for prayer, IF the VFW or Auxiliary Chaplain removes their cap, and/or IF the Auxiliary Chaplain is not wearing a cap."

Other information pertaining to the caps:

- (a) If uncovering, the cap shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart; the left hand goes behind the back as in parade rest.
- (b) Official caps will NOT be worn during luncheons, banquets, or other meals.
- (c) If you are unable to see the Chaplain and are unsure if they removed their cap, please remove your cap

Optional reading:

The Story of ["The Hare and the Tortoise" | Aesop's Fables |](#)

"The Hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, to show his contempt for the Tortoise, lay down to have a nap. The Tortoise plodded on and plodded on, and when the Hare awoke from his nap, he saw the Tortoise just near the winning-post and could not run up in time to save the race."

"As in several other fables by Aesop, the lesson it is teaching appears ambiguous. In Classical times it was not the Tortoise's plucky conduct in taking on a bully that was emphasized but the Hare's foolish over-confidence. An old Greek source comments that 'many people have good natural abilities which are ruined by idleness; on the other hand, sobriety, zeal and perseverance can prevail over indolence'."

How does this apply to our Membership Program? Are you a Tortoise or a Hare? However you do it, let's get those dues in to Cindy by December 30th, 2021! Earn a turtle membership pin – turn in the name of your new or reinstated member ASAP to Elaine Taylor, Membership Chmn.