

EBITES & BYTES

NOVEMBER 2024

As I sit here and write this November news bulletin, I can't help but think about my father who served in Korea from 1950-1951 in the US Army. He was truly a veteran who had given his all to fight for freedom and returned home to no welcome home celebration. He was very patriotic and loved what our America stood for. He attended many Veterans Day programs and always enjoyed hearing the young people sing for the veterans. This month as we honor Veterans Day once again may we continue to appreciate the freedom that the veterans fought for so that we may sing songs about America and fly our flags high and proud. As you attend Veterans Day Programs this year, please take pictures and post them on the Historian/Media Relations Facebook page so we all can see and thank the veterans in your community. We can't thank or honor them enough. I also extend a personal thank you to the families of the veterans who care for them daily.

In October I had the opportunity to attend the Big 10 Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was attended by all 10 Department Presidents, National President Brenda Bryant and all the National officers as well as all 10 Big 10 Post Commanders, National Commander Al and all the National post officers. Some very lively and creative membership skits were given by the departments. At the banquet on Saturday evening Commander Al shared a very personal story about Vietnam that forever changed his life and has lived on in his memory and made him the veterans rights advocate he is every day.

Please get your Capital Tree Ornaments sent to Deb Fahey by November 11. The tree will be decorated at the Capital on Wednesday, November 27th at 9am. Third floor at the Capital. All are welcome to attend.

Joint Commander/President Project: November 1 to December 1 we are conducting another joint project in support of veterans in the VA Hospitals and Facilities. We are requesting gift cards for the various facilities. Sioux Falls VA needs Trac Phone cards, West River Facilities need Walmart, Subway and other restaurant cards. We are asking all the posts and auxiliaries across the state to consider participating in this joint project. You may send Sioux Falls cards to Kim Vennard and West River cards to Sue Jones. Contact them with questions. You may also send a check to the Department Treasurer with a memo of where to send the cards and what kind of cards to purchase. Thank you for participating in this joint project.

The diaper project is a yearlong project, and I hope many of the auxiliaries are finding young families in their communities to gift the diapers and wipes to.

Important dates:

November 5: General Election Day {Get out and vote}

November 11: Veterans Day [Honor the veterans in your lives and community]

November 27: Decorate Capital Christmas Tree

November 28: Thanksgiving

Colleen Miller Foland, Department President