



## *American Legion Auxiliary*

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### **VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION**      May/June 2018



While reading a recent issue of the National American Legion publication, THE DISPATCH, I was impressed by an article about a small Wyoming Post which connected local veterans with high school students to help out with household chores and yard work. American Legion George Monroe Post 3 of Newcastle, Wyoming calls their program "Students 4 Veterans." Post Adjutant Barry Peterson needed help with a heavy lifting project and found some local high school students to assist him. He believed there probably were similar local veterans with no family or support network to call on for assistance. A letter to the county school district board and superintendent resulted in their enthusiastic support of the idea. Area veterans or a widow of a veteran can now call a specific telephone number for assistance. The American Legion relays the specific needs to the local principal, who then finds the helping students.

As a retired teacher, I'm aware that some school districts require their Seniors to complete a certain number of community service hours before they receive their diploma. Church youth and scout groups are also on the lookout for community service projects. Maybe your Post and Unit would consider starting such a "Students 4 Veterans" program in your local area.

It was a very rewarding experience to attend "Veterans Day on the Hill" on Monday, March 12th. I was pleased to see several Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary members in attendance. Following a general session in the Capitol Rotunda, attendees broke out to attend regional sessions with legislators from their area of the state. The session I attended found people speaking up about issues such as the need for more veterans homes, the status of veterans cemeteries, and the need for tax breaks for veterans. As Legislative Chairman, Jean Walker, has pointed out, the American Legion legislative goals are our goals also. Plan to attend next year's day if you are able. My husband and I took advantage of one of the free bus rides that came from various areas of the state. I appreciated the "no hassle" parking and the fact the DAV actually bought everyone on the bus a late lunch on the way home!

In closing, I'd like to thank President Donna Arends for this wonderful chairmanship. It's been an incredible year. Special thanks to my Gift Shop ladies: Chairman Vida Bacon and Linda Deschene and the nine amazing women who are volunteer coordinators at our 5 veterans homes and 4 VA Medical Centers. They are all truly Auxiliary angels. Last, but not least, WOW, AUXILIARY LADIES, you've overwhelmed me with all that you do on a regular basis for our veterans and their families in your home communities. So much of your work goes unrecognized, but is all so deeply appreciated. Well done, everyone.

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