



May is already here and if you are like most Auxiliary Members; you have a couple of busy months ahead of you before our year ends. June is our convention at the North Raleigh Hilton on June 8<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will make plans to attend. We will have some learning opportunities available to you by the Leadership Committee on Thursday, the 8th. Please check your schedule for the times.

The President's Project Table will be open for business; so please stop by and make a purchase or bring something for us to sell. All the proceeds will be divided equally for special projects at out four VA Medical Centers. We will also be offering each unit or member one last opportunity to donate to this worthwhile cause with our "Parade of Checks". Please come and participate in this event. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

It has been an honor serving you as your Department President and to travel across this state and see all the work you are doing for our veterans, military, their families and our communities. Thank you for your support this year and in working our programs. Each of you are truly my auxiliary family and it makes me so proud to be part of this wonderful organization. This will be my last article to you as your president. In July, you will be hearing from our new president. It is important that each year we grow our organization in membership but also in the service we offer our veterans, military and their families; and of course, the work in our communities with our youth. I know our love for our veterans and in turn our organization will cause each of us to grow in our walk as auxiliary members and to "Let our light shine" across our state.

In closing, remember to always be the best you can be in everything you do!

When an eagle appears in the sky, you are on notice to be courageous and stretch your limits. Do not accept the status quo, but rather reach higher and become more than you believe you are capable of. Look at things from a new, higher perspective. Be patient with the present; know that the future holds possibilities that you may not yet be able to see. May God bless each of you and may God bless America!

Brenda Toppin, President  
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of North Carolina