

# VFW Auxiliary Department of Ohio

## President's Message

HELLO #TEAMOHIO!!

Welcome to the VFW Auxiliary Department of Ohio's 9th newsletter! WOW! Can you believe it is MARCH? Where did this year go? #TEAMOHIO (all 43K+ of us) are doing an amazing job serving our Veterans & Communities! Reporting still needs to be done-in almost all but Legislative programs, only 1 report needs to be completed to be 100% reported..but DON'T STOP THERE!! I challenge you to keep reporting and recruiting up until the deadline for in APRIL and June 30th for membership! We are almost to 100% in Membership

If your Post/Auxiliary is having a function, PLEASE send it to myself or our WEBMASTER so we can get the information on our Facebook page and Website! We are trying our best to share them if we see them on Social Media but I am sure we are missing out on a bunch! HELP US HELP YOU!!! Remember, our WEBMASTER is District 1 President Lisa Rashley and when you see her-tell her what an amazing job she has done since taking on this task! If you have ideas or something you feel that needs to be on our website or social media...Let the Department Office know and if it is approved, it'll go up on the website.

Remember to go to our Department website for the latest Bulletin that was posted mid-February! There's lots of IMPORTANT information regarding Delegates/ Alternates, Chaplain Year-End Report and Resolutions that will be voted on at National Convention in July!

Loyally Yours,  
Kathy

VFW Auxiliary  
Department of Ohio

March 2023

Volume 1 Issue 9

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## March 2023 Military Holidays

Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day – [March 1](#)

Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day (Bikini Day) – [March 1](#)

World Civil Defense Day – [March 1](#)

Navy Reserves Birthday – [March 3](#)

Hug a GI Day – [March 4](#)

Alamo Day – [March 6](#)

Casimir Pulaski Day – [March 6](#), 2023 (First Monday in March)

K-9 Veterans Day – [March 13](#)

Operation Iraqi Freedom Day – [March 19](#)

National Medal of Honor Day – [March 25](#)

Vietnam Veterans Day or Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day – [March 29](#)

## March 4-National Hug a G.I. Day

March 4th is recognized by many as Hug A G.I. Day. The backstory of Hug A G.I. Day might fascinate you. This fun, one-day recognition of troops serving all over the world didn't get its start with a Congressional charter, a House Resolution, or a Presidential proclamation.

This holiday was started by a private citizen and has since made national headlines and become a part of the informal [national holiday](#) calendar.

Hug a G.I. Day will be hugged out next on Friday, March 4, 2022.

The person responsible for making March 4th a special day to remember those in uniform comes courtesy of Adrienne Sioux Koopersmith, who CNN describes as the self-proclaimed "Premier Eventologist" for America. She began this journey more than three decades ago and founded Hug A G.I. Day in 1996. A popular joke that often surfaces on the holiday reminds us that this is the only day in the 12-month calendar that is a complete sentence and a direct order: "March FORTH!"

### The Origins Of The Term "G.I."

The abbreviation ["G.I." used to stand for "government issue"](#), "ground infantry", and was later used as shorthand to refer to any male person serving in uniform. There are those who may think only of Army troops when using the term, but the truth is that it's evolved into more of a catchall phrase to describe anyone who serves. Other nations use the term "G.I." too. In Britain, the phrase refers to a Gunnery Instructor. During World War One, U.S. troops began using slang for incoming German artillery that included the term "G.I. cans." By the time the World War Two era was in full swing, the [Selective Service System](#) brought G.I. into widespread use. Some sources say the term replaced the less-than-flattering "doughboy" moniker used previously.

At least one source places some of the praise for bringing "G.I." into more widespread acceptability with General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who is quoted saying that during World War Two, "the truly heroic figure of this war [is] G.I. Joe and his counterpart in the air, the navy, and the Merchant Marine..."

Fast-forward about 22 years and the release of the very first G.I. Joe action figure by Hasbro and you start to see how “G.I.” became a popular phrase and mental image of those who serve. In spite of that history, some feel the term is a bit of an anachronism in the 21st century, preferring service-specific references rather than the broader term, G.I. No matter how the phrase became an unofficial part of military jargon, “G.I.” was written in law in the [Montgomery G.I. Bill](#) of 1944, what is officially known as The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, which included the G.I. Bill.

## Who Does Hug A G.I. Day Honor?

Like the definition of “G.I.” mentioned above, Hug A G.I. Day was created to honor all who serve. It doesn’t single out any branch of service, but encourages family, friends, and strangers to show their appreciation for those who serve. On March 4th, approximately 1.4 million active-duty are honored. These troops and their families make regular sacrifices to serve. Laying down your life for your country is honored for the ultimate sacrifice that it is, but there are many smaller sacrifices made every day around the world by U.S. officers and enlisted personnel who dedicate their lives to the service of the nation. These men and women provide help and relief during natural disasters, they participate in rescues and humanitarian missions and fight a global war on terrorism.

## How to Observe National Hug a G.I. Day

The most obvious way to observe March 4th is to give a service member a hug. It’s important to recognize that some veterans or currently serving military members may wish to give consent before having physical contact for a variety of reasons. Those reasons may include back problems or spinal injuries, knee problems, chronic pain, [PTSD](#), and any number of other issues. Hug A G.I. on March 4th, but make sure it’s OK to do so! Some injuries aren’t obvious to a well-intentioned hugger but may be subject to additional problems through unexpected physical contact. Handshakes, thanks, and virtual greetings are just as acceptable on March 4th as they are on birthdays, anniversaries, and other celebrations. Some take to Facebook to say thank you. You can view posts about Hug A G.I. events by searching Facebook using the term and the date.

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## March 13-National K9 Veteran Day

National K9 [Veterans Day](#), March 13, is a day set aside to honor commemorate the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history.

It was on March 13, 1942, that the [Army](#) began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," according to American Humane, marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The rest, as they say, is history. Officially a part of the service or not, the dogs of war span centuries and include such heroes as [Sgt. Stubby](#), the original war dog; [Chips, the most decorated dog in World War II](#); Lex, [who retired with his fallen owners family](#); and Cairo, the [Navy SEAL working dog on the bin Laden raid](#).

Today's military dogs are valued as important members of their military units and even have their own retirement ceremonies, awards and medals and memorial services.

K-9 breeders and handlers honor the service of their furry companions. K-9s serve vital roles in the military and law enforcement. They get embedded in border patrol and customs, airports, the Coast Guard, the F.B.I., the police, and even the Secret Service. This holiday also recognizes other service dogs that help people with disabilities and support animals for those with mental health issues. Service dogs often risk their health and lives to accomplish their missions. It's only fair that we should celebrate their efforts at least once a year.



# Ride With Valor Donation-Midwinter Auction

 **VFW Auxiliary Department of Ohio** ...  
★ Favorites · February 15 at 6:23 PM · 

I was able to present Ride with Valor their portion of the Midwinter Auxiliary Auction proceeds today!



Ohio VFW Auxiliary  
Department of Ohio  
PO Box 15730  
Columbus OH 43215-0730

Fifth Third Bank  
25-216440  
2/11

Ride with Valor \$ \*\*4,65  
usand Six Hundred Ninety-Five and 00/100  
Ride with Valor  
P O Box 361761

# Support the National Home

**By Donating to the Health & Education Building's Veterans Resource Center**

**What Is It?** The VFW National Home is currently in the process of renovating the Health & Education Building, with focus on the offices downstairs where the Veterans Resource Center opened in October, 2022. The Veterans Resource Center helps veterans and their families access resources and support they otherwise may not be able to find or afford. Note: When this Auxiliary-sponsored building opened nearly a century ago, it was the campus hospital. For a while, it even housed quarantined children with tuberculosis.

**How Much?** The National Home needs an estimated \$10,000 to complete this project. (Any excess will go toward additional Veterans Resource Center necessities.)

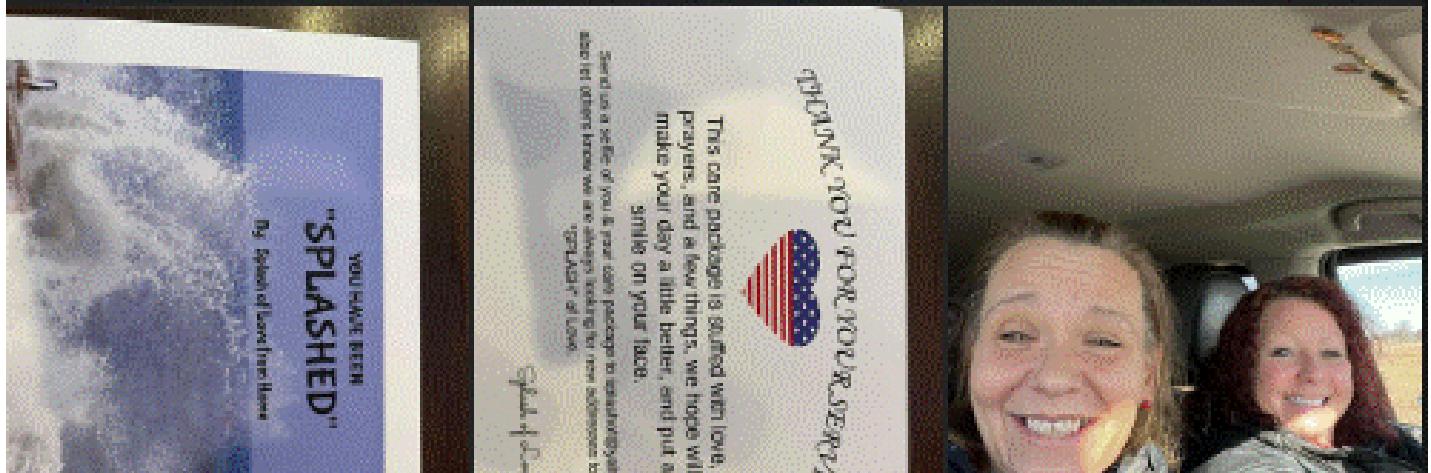
**How Can We Help?** There are nearly 3,500 Auxiliaries. If each Auxiliary were to donate \$3 in December, the National Home could finish 2022 having already met their goal!

Please mail donations directly to the National Home (3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827) with checks earmarked "Veterans Resource Center." Thank you!

## Donation to Splash of Love From Home-Midwinter Auction

So very honored to present 1/3 proceeds of the annual Midwinter Friday Night Auxiliary Auction to A Splash of Love from Home

Big THANK YOU to Sr Vice President Shannon Stanley for coming on this road trip with me today!



# CHAIN OF COMMAND

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS

Report to the District President with problems



## DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Assists **Auxiliary Presidents** in finding solutions to problems. If you are not sure of the answer or action to be taken, contact the **Department President**



## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Will work along with the **Chief of Staff** to help find solutions to the problems the **District Presidents** have reported. Will contact the **National Office** with any problems or actions that cannot be taken care of on the Department level

**PLEASE DO NOT** deviate from this  
**CHAIN OF COMMAND**

Following this will make it easier  
for ALL of us!

## **Eligibility Requirements for VFW Auxiliary Membership:**

Members must be at least 16 years old.

Those eligible are:

- Husband/Wife
- Widower/Widow
- Father/Mother
- Grandfathers/Grandmothers
- Sons/Daughters
- Grandsons/Granddaughters
- Brothers/Sisters

Of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Those eligible for membership in the VFW are those that have received a campaign medal for overseas service; have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

*Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*

**Proof of service is required for eligibility and must be obtained by the applicant.**

Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by contacting:

**National Archives and Records Administration**

Phone: 1-866-272-6272

Online:

Veterans Service Records: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

4-Step Veteran Request Process: <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>

**Military Records Request Using Standard Form 180 (SF-180):**

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

If you have membership questions or need more information, please contact us at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org).

## District Testimonial Dates

### MARCH TESTIMONIALS

March 12, 2023

District 3

President Chad Hoke

Commander Harry Poling

Huber Heights Post 3283

5074 Nebraska Ave. Huber Heights, OH 45424 5

TIME: Immediately following District Meeting

March 25, 2023 TIME: **5pm**

District 7

President Dave Sargent

Commander Luther Sawicki

**Parma Post 1974**

**4305 Woodrow Ave, Parma OH 44134**

### APRIL TESTIMONIALS

April 1, 2023 TIME:5pm

District 2

President Robin Hagaman

Commander Scott Dues

Wapakoneta Post 8445

712 N Dixie Hwy Wapakoneta, OH 45895

April 8, 2023

**TIME: 4pm**

District 9

President Brenda Cunning

Commander Terry Stanforth

Fremont Post 2947

711 Fisher Dr Fremont, OH 43420

April 29, 2023 TIME: 6pm cocktails Dinner 7pm

District 1 President Lisa Rashley Commander Ron Poland

**Wauseon Post 7424 1133 N Ottokee St , Wauseon OH 43567**

### MAY TESTIMONIALS

May 7, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 8

President Dominique Graves-Robinson

Commander Mark Ross

Ravenna Post 1055

6000 New Milford Rd Ravenna, OH 44266

May 20, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 6

President Billie Melott

Commander Douglas Brannon

Carrollton Post 3301

2291 Chase Rd., SE Carrollton, OH 44615

May 20, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 5

President Pam Tracey

Commander Kenneth Blume

Malta Post 4713

235 Front Street Malta, OH 43758

May 20, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 10

President Brooke Leidigh

Commander Rodger Brodman

Crestline Post 2920

100 S Crestline St Crestline, OH 44827

## District Testimonial Dates Continued

DATE: TBA TIME: TBA

District 11

President Marie Leister

Commander Iris Foster-DeNieuwe

TBA

DATE: TBA

TIME: TBA

District 12

President Christina Spencer

Commander Nicholette Bolte

TBA

### National President Jane Reape NEEDS TEAMOHIO's HELP

HELP!!! We need to help National President Jane raise money for the Voice of Democracy Scholarship— Let's help save her from getting a pie in her face by National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland

Message from Jane:

Tim and I have challenge. Whoever raises the most money for the Voice of Democracy Scholarship in the name of our class gets to pie the other in the face. I need your help!! Tim has raised twice as much money as the Auxiliary has. I need your help!!! If every Dept and/or Auxiliary donated \$150 we could move ahead of Tim.

Thank you in advance. Either way it for a good cause.

Jane Reape  
National President

"Friendship is the source of the greatest pleasures, and without friends even the most agreeable pursuits become tedious." *St Thomas Aquinas*

# CHAPLAIN'S YEAR-END REPORT

**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SEND IN YOUR DECEASED AUXILIARY MEMBERS LIST! WE WANT  
TO MAKE SURE WE HONOR THEM AT JUNE CONVENTION!**



Chaplain  
Year-end Report

## DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Please list your deceased members from July 1, 2022, thru April 20, 2023.

**Members Name**      **Membership Number**      **Members Name**      **Membership Number**

Please send to me by May 15, 2023.

**Please fill out completely.**

Becky E Abbott  
11630 Hanover Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45240-1955  
email: babbottbecky53@gmail.com

This list will be turned into the Department Office after Memorial Service so that our membership records can be kept up-to-date!

## **DELEGATES & ALTERNATES FOR JUNE Convention 2023**

**DEPARTMENT OF OHIO VFW AUXILIARY  
DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES  
2022 -2023**

DISTRICT #\_\_\_\_\_ AUX #\_\_\_\_\_ # OF MEMBERS\_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF ELECTION

**\*Elect Delegates & Alternates using Auxiliary membership count as of the date of the Auxiliary election (date of the April meeting)**

As described in Section 304 of the National By-Laws, the term of office for which Delegates and Alternates are elected shall be for one (1) year from the date of election, until the election of the new Delegates. This list **MUST** be filed with the Department of Ohio VFW Auxiliary to be used for the Department Convention, Mid-Winter Conference and Department meetings for one year. It is important that this completed form be returned to the Department Secretary at the Department Headquarters office no later than **May 31, 2023**.

VFW AUXILIARY, 35 E. CHESTNUT ST. #508, COLUMBUS OH 43215  
Email: [treasurer@vfwauxoh.org](mailto:treasurer@vfwauxoh.org) or Fax: 614-227-0360

DELEGATES NAME(S)	ALTERNATE NAME(S)

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**Auxiliary President Signature & Date**

**Auxiliary Secretary Signature & Date**

### **Sec. 304 – Department Meetings and Convention:**

- Delegates and Alternates to the Departments shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary, held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Department Convention:
    - One (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each 30 members, or fraction thereof, in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election of Delegates.
    - The Auxiliary Secretary shall send the names of the Delegates and Alternates to the Department Secretary prior to the Department Convention.

# **Resolutions for National Convention 2023**

## **Resolution #3**

### **RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NATIONAL BYLAWS OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY**

Whereas Section 102- Application – New Members, (4<sup>th</sup> large bullet) Department Members at Large, (2<sup>nd</sup> small bullet) reads as:

- The Department Treasurer shall transmit to the National Treasurer ten dollars (\$10.00) of the dues collected for each Member At Large.

Whereas there has been no increase in the National Dues in more than a decade.

Whereas the cost of absolutely everything has escalated in the last several years.

Whereas the amount of the Auxiliary annual dues increased.

**Therefore, let it be resolved that Section 102- Application – New Members, (4<sup>th</sup> large bullet) Department Members at Large, (2<sup>nd</sup> small bullet) reads as follows:**

#### **Sec. 102—Application**

- The Department Treasurer shall transmit to the National Treasurer thirty dollars (\$30.00) of the dues collected for each Member At Large.

**Resolution to become effective July 1, 2024.**

Presented by Sandra Onstwedder, Bylaws Review and Resolutions Chairman

Committee Members:

Brenda Bryant- Debbie Casella- Janice Criswell

**Resolution #1**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NATIONAL BYLAWS OF THE  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY**

Whereas, Section 806D - Department Installation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Large Bullet reads:

- They shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices immediately after adjournment of the meeting at which they were installed.

Whereas, Section 806D of the National Bylaws does not address the fact that a new Department Treasurer does not have access to MALTA until after the new Auxiliary year, July 1:

Whereas, Many Department have money making projects during their conventions and a new Department Treasurer would not have access to the account:

And Whereas, dues are allowed to be paid until the end of June and members who send their dues directly to the Department Treasurer, may not have the new Treasurer's name and address:

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Bylaws Sec 806D - Department Installation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Large Bullet read as:

They shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices at the conclusion of the current Auxiliary year.

**Presented by:**

Sandi Onstwedder, Bylaws Review and Resolutions Committee Chairman

**Committee Members:**

Brenda Bryant – Debbie Casella – Janice Criswell

## **Resolutions for National Convention 2023 (con't)**

### **Resolution #2A**

#### **RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NATIONAL BYLAWS OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY**

Whereas Section 708- National Dues, Bullet reads as:

- National Dues shall be five dollars (\$5.00) per annum on each member, effective January 1, 2012, paid by ACH transaction to National Headquarters.

Whereas there has been no increase in the National Dues in more than a decade.

Whereas the cost of absolutely everything has escalated in the last several years.

**Therefore, let it be resolved that Section 708- National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary read as follows:**

#### **Sec. 708—National Dues**

- National dues shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum on each member, effective July 1, 2024, paid by ACH transaction to National Headquarters.

Presented by Sandra Onstwedder, Bylaws Review and Resolutions Chairman

Committee Members:

Brenda Bryant- Debbie Casella- Janice Criswell

Resolution #2B

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NATIONAL BYLAWS OF THE  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY

Whereas Section 708- National Dues, Bullet reads as:

- National Dues shall be five dollars (\$5.00) per annum on each member, effective January 1, 2012, paid by ACH transaction to National Headquarters.

Whereas there has been no increase in the National Dues in more than a decade.

Whereas the cost of absolutely everything has escalated in the last several years.

**Therefore, let it be resolved that Section 708- National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary read as follows:**

**Sec. 708—National Dues shall be eight dollars commencing on July 1, 2024.**

**An increase of two dollars (\$2.00) per annum on each member for the 2025 Dues year, progressing each year thereafter in the amount of two dollars (\$2.00) until reaching a total of twenty dollars (\$20.00) National Dues per annum on each member in the year 2030. Resolution to become effective July 1, 2024.**

Presented by Sandra Onstwedder, Bylaws Review and Resolutions Chairman

Committee Members:

Brenda Bryant- Debbie Casella- Janice Criswell

## Resolutions for National Convention 2023 (con't)

### AUXILIARY DELGATES & ALTERNATES NATIONAL CONVENTION 2023

#### REMINDER:

##### Sec 305-National Convention

- Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be elected at the last regular meeting in April;
  - One (1) Delegate and (1) Alternate for each fifty (50) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary on March 31.
  - The term of office for which Delegates are elected shall be for one (1) year from date of the election, as described in this Section, until the election of the new Delegates.

All National Delegates and Alternates **MUST** be entered in MALTA by the Secretary no later May 31, 2023. If you are an Auxiliary Secretary and cannot do this on your own, your Department Secretary can help you or you may mail your Delegates and Alternates list to National Headquarters. Mailed lists must be postmarked by 5/31/23.

If you are a member who was voted in at your Auxiliary meeting as a Delegate or Alternate and your Secretary does not enter your name as such in MALTA by 5/31/23, you will not have a vote at National Convention. Once your Secretary enters you as a Delegate or an Alternate, you will see the following on your MALTA log in pages:

Member ID  
XXXXXXX

Member Since  
XXXX

Membership Type  
Life

Delegate  
**2023 National Convention – Phoenix Arizona or Alternate 2023 National Convention - Phoenix Arizona**

Member Join Date  
XXXX

**YOU MUST SEE THE DELEGATE/ALTERNATE INFORMATION IN RED ON MALTA TO VOTE AT NATIONAL CONVENTION.**

If you have any questions regarding Delegates or Alternates, or any other subject, contact the Department office at [treasurer@vfwauxoh.org](mailto:treasurer@vfwauxoh.org) or call 614-227-0358.

Sandra Uzell  
Ohio Candidate for VFW Auxiliary National Guard 2023

**BIG SHOUT OUT & RECOGNITION TO MISTY SMITH,  
Students @ Mapleton Elementary,  
District 9 Auxiliary 2743 & District 10 Auxiliary 3493 for making  
these Valentine's Day Cards for the Veterans at Ohio Veteran's Home**



This photo is from a post. View post

Misty Smith from the Department of Ohio said Auxiliaries 2743 and 3494 worked together with fifth graders to make valentines for veterans at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. "We made 270 cards and they loved doing it! Our students really know how to honor our veterans, and they make me so proud!"

Misty Smith and 6 others

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

...

## INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”

— Mae West

“Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears.”

—Les Brown

“If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.”

—Booker T. Washington

## Blessings Sent

To all having birthdays & anniversaries, enjoy!

To those struggling with illness-I send healing thoughts & prayers

To those that have lost a loved one, my thoughts & prayers are with you and your families

From my family to yours, I wish you blessings, joy, health, love & prosperity

Remember to keep our Troops, both home and deployed around the world in your thoughts and  
prayers-remember FREEDOM isn't FREE!

**GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!**



IRISH BLESSING:

MAY YOUR HOME ALWAYS BE TOO SMALL TO HOLD ALL YOUR FRIENDS

T  
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