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DEPARTMENT ORDER #2

"It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past—a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance, and justice."

General Douglas MacArthur, Aboard the USS Missouri (BB63),

Tokyo Bay, September 2, 1945

Dear Sisters,

I found the above quote at the National WWII Museum while on a recent trip to New Orleans. I accompanied a 100-year-old WWII veteran to his USS Ranger Reunion. It is a shame that so many of these veterans are no longer with us.

I hope that you will be participating in Veteran's Day ceremonies. I will be thinking of my great uncle, Leo who served during WWI as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of that terrible conflict.

This December 13th is the 200th birthday of Mary Todd Lincoln. I hope that you will remember her as well.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Gettysburg on Remembrance Day. Once again our parade has been threatened so our route will be shortened and well secured. See something say something seems to be the motto of these troubled times.

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Our Department officers have had their own troubled times as we seem keep breaking bones. I broke my ribs, followed by Chief of Staff, Cindy Fox who broke her arm, Treasurer Faye Carlisle Thomas who broke her wrist, and finally Secretary Margaret Shuttlesworth who broke her hip. Everyone is healing and we hope that the trend is over. Please watch your step!

Commander A. Chris Carty and I attended our National Encampment in Framingham had a great time seeing old friends and making new ones. The Department of Massachusetts did a wonderful job hosting the encampment. PDP Barbara Indan was elected national Counselor III. Department Chaplin Clark Brocht received a National Chaplin's award. Congratulations to them both.

I wish to thank everyone who helped with or attended my Testimonial Luncheon. It was a wonderful affair and we had a spectacular view of the valley.

We recently lost two National Presidents, Marion Combs and Barbara Mayberry. Our National President asks that you drape your charters and badges in their honor.

On the homefront:

Our Vice President Laura Kane sends her greetings and asks that you continue your recruitment efforts, and she enjoyed seeing everyone at my testimonial luncheon and she hopes to see you on Remembrance Day.

Our Secretary Margaret Shuttlesworth sends her greetings and asks that you send your per capita information to her. She hopes to be home from rehab soon.

Our Treasurer, Faye Carlisle Thomas also sends her greetings and asks you to support our two money officers and to send your per capita dues. The department is always low on funds after the encampment and the quarterly payment schedule helps to keep the department running smoothly. Some payments are overdue.

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Our Patriotic Instructor, Linda Snook sends her greetings and urges you to volunteer in your communities and continue to distribute those beautiful American flags. Please remember to honor our veterans on Veterans Day. Linda thanks all who supported her office. She has enjoyed working with her fellow officers and has found her job to be inspirational and rewarding because of everyone's support. She enjoyed the fellowship at my testimonial luncheon and wished to compliment Auxiliary #10 on their hard work. She plans on coming to Remembrance Day and hopes to see you there.

Please pray for our Sisters who are currently battling cancer or those who are having personal illness or difficulty in their lives. Please let Chaplin, Barbara Day know to whom she should send a card.

For the Good of the Order

The Commander and I have extended condolences from our department to the congregation of the Tree of Life Synagogue. This was a truly sad day for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and our country. Please pray for an end to the gun violence and hatred plaguing our country.

This year I am personally contributing to Keystone Military Families. They support our veterans and their families with a food bank and send packages and cards to our currently serving troops. Military families helping military families. Please share with me the names of similar organizations that you are working with so I can share them with our auxiliaries.

Please start thinking about your nominations for the Marie Tepe Award.

I hope that your upcoming holidays are blessed with family, friends, and joy. I hope that 2019 holds promise for us all.

Susan Mertz, Department President