

## **You Can Always Participate**

### **2024-2025 National Hospital Ambassador Paulette McCord**

The new Program Year has started off wonderfully. I have already had so many reports and introduction letters from the Department Chairmen. If you have not sent me your introduction letter, please send it to me. I would like to get to know all my Chairmen this year.

Thank you, Chairmen, for accepting this chairmanship. Hospital is one of the most rewarding Programs we have. Our veterans have always been there for us, now we need to be there for them. Check with your volunteer service department at your hospital and ask them what they need help with or what their needs are.

Also check and work with your Department VAVS to get their needs lists, they may need supplies, clothing, books or other items. They are a link between you and the hospital.

This year, **YOU** are the veterans 'little ray of sunshine.' You need to think outside the box and use your imagination; think if it was you, what would you enjoy from volunteers.

When you go to the VA hospitals always remember you are there to brighten the patient's day, always wear give a big smile and a big hello. Take the time to get to know them, let them talk about themselves and let them tell you about their stories. We as VA hospital volunteers are there to make each day just a little brighter.

Try to recruit volunteers to visit the VA facilities; remember volunteers do not have to be VFW Auxiliary members. They can be anyone, they can be non-members and don't forget to try to get youth groups to come and visit the veterans. The veterans love to have young people visit them. If you are not close enough to a VA facility you can always volunteer at local hospitals or nursing homes that have veterans.

If an Auxiliary is not located close to a VA hospital, they can still participate by making items for the veterans. Don't forget your elderly Auxiliary members who may not be able to attend meetings but would love to make items for the veterans. This way they feel like they are still a part of our organization.

You don't have to wait for a holiday to participate at a VA Center or Hospital. Every day is Veterans Day.

I can't wait to read your reports on what you are achieving at our hospitals. If you have any patterns for aprons, wheelchair caddies and would like to share them with other Auxiliaries,

please send them to me and I'll try to get them out to everyone. Working together, we can make this year an outstanding year for our veterans. Thank you for all that you do, you are the BEST!