

TO: The Brothers and Sisters of the Department of Indiana
FROM: Carolyn J. Patch

October 6, 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Department of Indiana VFW Auxiliary,

I have been encouraged by several Department of Indiana VFW Auxiliary members that I consider mentors as well as friends, to run once more for the high office of Department Guard. As they have inspired me and shown confidence in my ability, I have decided to accept their advice and announce my candidacy.

I joined this great organization under the eligibility of my husband Larry, a Vietnam Veteran in 1990. I became a Life Member in 1991. My husband was offered a promotion by the Veterans Administration in 1999 in their Indianapolis office. We have lived in Indiana for 22 years this month. Though we have lived in many states over our years together, Indiana is where we have both retired.

I am currently the District 11 Sr. Vice-President. I was elected as District Guard in 2017 and have served as District Conductress, Chaplain and Jr. Vice-President. I transferred my Life Membership to the Frank T. Strayer VFW Auxiliary to Post #1587 in 2013. I served as a Trustee and Chief of Staff from 2013-2016, President in 2016-2017 and Patriotic Instructor from 2017-present. I have served 3 other terms as President and was the Charter President to VFW Post # 2509 Auxiliary from 1990-1993. I served on the Department Council of Administration during those 3 terms as President. More recently I was the Department Scholarship Chairman under Department President Anna Mauk and proudly accepted the 2nd Place Award at National Convention for our Division. I have held two other Department Program Chairmanships for Publicity and Americanism. I was honored to receive the 1st Place Lighthouse Award as Department Publicity Chairman for the 1991-1992 year. I have been President of the year twice before and shared the honor one year with a now Past National President. In 2016-2017 I was given the honor of being the Captain of the District 11 Presidents. I have chaired, co-chaired and /or assisted in all National Programs. I am currently the Americanism/POW/MIA Chairman for both District 11 and my Auxiliary. I am also the Scholarship Chairman for Auxiliary #1587. It has been my privilege to bring numerous awards home to my Auxiliary. I have received numerous awards for Buddy Poppy displays and proudly brought back to Indiana a National 1st Place Award for Category 3 in 2016-2017. This display has since been donated to the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette.

I have also been asked to be the Organizer for the MOCA (Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary) to our new MOC Pup Tent Indy Racers #11. On Saturday October 2nd we held our organizational meeting where we elected our Officers and appointed our Program Chairmen. It was a personal highlight for me to have the opportunity to meet and speak with the incoming Supreme MOCA President, Debbie Thie at their Supreme Convention in Kansas City, KS this past summer.

In my personal life my husband and I will celebrate 45 years of marriage on October 16th while we are at our first ever BIG 10 Conference. Together we have raised 4 sons all of whom have served their country honorably in the military. I am also the proud grandmother of 2 active-duty Army and Army National Guard members. We have always been a family devoted to the service of others as we continue to serve our Veterans in this great organization and in the great Department of Indiana.

In my professional life I graduated from Nursing School with honors in May of 1981. I have been an American Red Cross volunteer, served on the Hospital Advisory Board for the Department of Defense at Elmendorf A.F.B. Regional Hospital. I have played Darts for Diabetes and have had the great privilege of working with a nurse that was instrumental in the establishment of the Alzheimer's Foundation in 1982. I have been an instructor for Health Care Provider CPR, Nursing Assistants and Home Health care workers for certification. I have been a member of NAHUC (National Association of Health Unit Coordinators) since 1983 and have worked for the Department of Defense as the Unit Manager for a 7-floor hospital. I had the honor of training the military's Ward Clerks for National Certification with a 100% pass rate. I continue to volunteer when and where I can as I remain on the First Responders list from 2001. As a Nurse you have to learn how to be a leader, work as a team member and make decisions with your team to provide the best possible outcomes for your patients. In order to be a good Nurse you have to understand that you are not seeing people at their best. They are often ill and frightened. They have loved ones that need reassurance that they are getting the best possible care and you must show confidence in your manner towards them so that they may be confident in you. I believe that over the years I have honed skills in my professional life that have been tremendous assets in my private life but more importantly in my volunteer work. Some of my hobbies are reading, fishing, steel and soft tip darts, cooking, sewing and volunteer work.

In conclusion I believe I have the necessary leadership skills and the ability to work as a team member that will be of benefit and service in the Department of Indiana VFW Auxiliary. I am grateful for the support of my family, auxiliary and district brothers and sisters. I am truly humbled and honored by those that have shown faith and confidence in my ability to pursue office in the great Department of Indiana VFW Auxiliary. I humbly seek your support of my candidacy for Department Guard.

Loyally,

Carolyn J. Patch
District 11 Auxiliary Sr. Vice-President