Greetings

This is Andy, your Department Hospital Chairman for 2026-2027.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Auxiliary Hospital Chairpersons for accepting this very important assignment. I realize that this position requires a lot of personal time and effort to make it a success. But, isn't that what our Auxiliary members do, day to day?

I also understand that visiting a veteran, family member or neighbor can be difficult with the flu season staring us in the face and covid always threatening. But the mail service, florist delivery and even Amazon always come through. Imagine receiving an unsolicited gift at your front door when you haven't been able to get out of your home or unable to leave a care facility or hospital. Loneliness can be as debilitating and any disease. But we have the power to put a smile on that lonely face. You could say "it's a real shot in the arm"!

The Holidays are coming and this can be one of the saddest times of the year for shut-ins. Seasonal depression is a real issue. Shorter days and longer nights attribute to the sadness of the holidays. Bright colorful twinkling holiday lights line streets and highways just waiting to put a smile on that person you just signed out of their living situation. Yes, more of your time, but you have more, maybe they don't.

So, we can send Thanksgiving and Christmas cards, deliver food baskets or visit a patient in the hospital and read them a holiday story.

My own personal story is, for the last 2 years my Auxiliary, Lake Murray 6740 has visited an assisted living facility at Christmas where several veterans reside. I dress as Santa Clause. We have a Mrs. Clause and many members dressed as elves We have someone providing music and we engage the residents to sing along as we hand out Christmas gifts. Yes, some of the think this is silly but soon a frown gives way to a smile. I'm not sure who gets more out of this, the residents or the Auxiliary members.

Days to remember in the coming months.

Halloween

Veterans Day November 11

Pearl Harbor Day December 7

Thanksgiving

Kwanzaa

Christmas

New Years Day

Thank you for everything you do and may God bless each and every one of you and the Veterans you lift up.

Sincerely

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