



Andrew Machemer
Department Hospital Chairman
2026-2027

Greetings from Andy.

This year I have been assigned the Hospital program. This program focuses on visiting Veterans in retirement homes, hospitals or even in the homes of loved ones.

I joined the VFW Auxiliary under my son who served in Korea. I served in the Pa. National Guard from 1969-1975.

My wife, Sally and I retired and moved to Leesville. Warmer weather and no snow. We have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. All live out of state.

How do we show honor and show respect to those that have given so much? It's easy, no fancy expensive gifts, no parties, just your time. Visiting these veterans where ever they are is an experience you won't forget. To see their faces light up is heart warming. Often their hand is outstretched waiting to shake yours and to tell you, their story. All they want is an ear to listen.

Often school children of Auxiliary members can make holiday cards that can be given to these brave veterans. Sweet treats are always welcome and even a song or two is appreciated. I've seen bingo being played at the VA with the help of Auxiliary members. Grumpy Vets yelling "bingo" makes it all worthwhile. Of course, a good time to visit is holidays and more importantly are the patriotic holidays. Be sure to communicate with the facility you wish to visit beforehand.

Enclosed you will find a report form to fill out describing your visit and returned to me and a copy to your Auxiliary President for their records.

Please remember I need the date of your visit.

Send your reports to:

Andy.vfwinfo@gmail.com or snail mail:

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Greetings

My name is Andrew Machemer. I am the Department of South Carolina Hospital Chairman for the 2026-2027 year.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about myself and what being the Hospital Chairperson means to me.

I joined the Army National Guard in 1969 and served until 1975. My duty station was Warren Pa. and I was attached to the 112th infantry company.

My wife Sally have been married 42 years and I have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Unfortunately, all 3 children live on different states. After many years working as an electrician in N.Y. and Pa and W.Va. Sally and I retired and moved to S.C. to better weather.

I had very little knowledge of the VFW until 2020 when my wife Sally and I joined Post 6740. We joined because we were looking to meet people as we had just moved to S.C. from Pa. and did not know anyone but family.

Since joining the VFW as a Life Member I have been 6740 Auxiliary President, 2022-2024, 2025-2026 Auxiliary Senior Vice President, 2021-2023 District Jr. Vice President, 2023-2024, Senior Vice President, 2024-2026 and now I am the District 2 President for the 2026-2027 year. I am also a member of MOCA puppet 15 in Columbia S.C. and voted Outstanding Auxiliary Member, 2022-2023. So much for meeting people!

Volunteering for projects and events keeps my wife and me very busy. Whether it's bagging food for the local VA center or for the homeless, collecting and distributing clothes to homeless, sending food care packages to our troops deployed overseas, even cleaning up overgrown yards from Auxiliary members to ill to do it themselves, we are there.

As I said, I joined the National Guard in 1969. This was a very social volatile time as the Viet Nam war was raging abroad and protesters were raging in the home land. I was not fighting in a foreign jungle; I was here protecting the integrity of the soldiers that were. Every movement we made, we were subjects to insults

and disrespect aimed at the armed forces. We were also here to protect the populus from themselves. Riots were everywhere and people were getting hurt by their own hand.

One shinning light during my time of service was helping a town in eastern Pennsylvania. clean up after hurricane Agnus in 1972. There was no disrespect then from the townspeople as thousands of National Guard troops showed up to help.

Attending memorial services, honoring the fallen and those left behind, and offering a shoulder for family members to cry on. Sally and we attend funerals for unclaimed soldiers at the Fort Jackson S.C. cemetery. Getting all choked up when hearing taps being played because you know it has played too many times before.

I find it very difficult to separate Hospital from Americanisms, (I was the Americanism chairman for two years.) Americanism is flying the American Flag and saluting the flag because you know what it stands for. And the millions of names written on it.

Hospital reporting is acknowledging those that volunteered their personal safety and health and were willing to write their name on the flag for our freedom. (See my dilemma?) .

Hospital Reporting is showing that we as a grateful nation thank you For Your Service and sacrifice. We show this by visiting hospitals, and retirement homes. Dressing up and singing Christmas Carols. Playing bingo with Vets at the VA. Sending cards. Checking with facilities to see what they need. Or just gather some Auxiliary members and go visit a facility.

God Bless America.

Andy.