

JANAURY 2023

Dear Oregon Auxiliary Family,

This coming February holds a significant opportunity to support an Auxiliary Hospital Project: National Salute Week, during the week of the 14<sup>th</sup>. The pressures of Valentine's Day for some can be awkward or distant. However, that can be shaken off with a focus on our Veterans.

The week is not just about something special for Valentine's Day, but acknowledgment of the Veteran, their service and sacrifice *during the whole week*. To be reasonable, 3 different acknowledgements out of 7 days is very good and unexpected.

Remember that service/projects under the Hospital Program fall under **ANY** Medical/Health facility. Many of our Vietnam Veterans and Spouses are living at Assisted Living/Nursing Facilities. Most of our areas do not have a VA Hospital, and if so logistics to help them vary and often requires more planning than a phone call or two. Communicate with your Post and neighboring Auxiliaries to select a care facility to sponsor for National Salute Week. Ask the facility Director of Activities how many Veterans they have and what activities they enjoy and do. I would recommend Valentine-like cards for all residents, then a few extra tokens the following days for Vets specifically.

When I first read about National Salute Week, it reminded me of the workplace "Secret Santa" with clues of surprises via out the week (new coffee/cocoa cup, small decorative item, sweets, etc). Also remember creativity; try not to repeat last year's items. Bingo dabbers, playing cards, puzzles, new magazines, good new socks with candy tucked inside, a hosted coffee/tea with snacks are some ideas. And it's okay to gift the Facility as a Group versus presents for each resident. Don't forget about students at school to help to get a head start on the cards; serving as a youth activity as well.

It's hard to believe that we are less than 4 months away from a new auxiliary fiscal year starting. Try not to let those reports and dues lag; they will be needed by March,

yet preferably well before then. Keep up the great work y'all and take the time to record it.

Wishing you all a healthy and prosperous start to the new year.

Yours in God and Country,

Megan E Malpass