

**THANK YOU. I AM PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU TO
MILWAUKEE FOR THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY.**

**THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE FOR YOU TO HOLD
YOUR CONVENTION, BECAUSE MUCH OF THE CIVIC
AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN WISCONSIN COMMUNITIES
CENTERS ON THE LOCAL LEGION POST.**

**AND WISCONSIN RESIDENTS REMEMBER AND
APPRECIATE THE POSITIVE ROLE THE AUXILIARY
HAS HAD THROUGH ITS SERVICE PROJECTS AND
FUNDRAISING DRIVES.**

**WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY, TWO THINGS IMMEDIATELY COME TO
MIND: PATRIOTISM AND COMPASSION FOR
OTHERS.**

**I CAN REMEMBER WHEN MEMBERS OF THE LEGION
AUXILIARY IN MY HOMETOWN OF ELROY WOULD**

DISTRIBUTE POPPIES EVERY YEAR TO HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY VETERANS.

THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE COMPASSIONATE AND VITAL ROLE THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY HAS PLAYED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALL AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY VETERANS.

YOU HAVE SERVED AS A BEACON OF HOPE TO MANY PEOPLE, WHETHER IT'S BY SERVING AS A TUTOR TO HELP ADULTS WITH THEIR READING SKILLS, OR BY PROVIDING GIFTS AND PLANNING PARTIES FOR VETERANS AT CHRISTMAS TIME.

YOU ARE AMERICAN PATRIOTS, WHO HAVE FOUGHT TO UPHOLD THE FREEDOM WE TREASURE IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY.

YOU REPRESENT WHAT THOMAS PAINE TALKED ABOUT WHEN HE SAID, "THOSE WHO EXPECT TO REAP THE BLESSING OF FREEDOM MUST UNDERTAKE TO SUPPORT IT."

YOU HAVE SUPPORTED THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM FOR MORE THAN 80 YEARS. AND YOUR SUPPORT ISN'T JUST CENTERED ON HELPING PEOPLE NOW. THE AUXILIARY IS LEAVING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE.

THE PROGRAMS YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED, LIKE GIRLS STATE AND GIRLS NATION, HAVE HELPED GENERATIONS OF YOUNG WOMEN TAKE THEIR FIRST STEPS INTO THE WORLD OF PUBLIC SERVICE, TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY.

YOU ALSO HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE COST OF FREEDOM, AND THE NEED TO UPHOLD THE TRADITIONS THAT HAVE BECOME SACRED IN THIS COUNTRY.

YOUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN FLAG THROUGH THE CITIZEN FLAG ALLIANCE HELP REMIND PEOPLE THAT THE FLAG IS UNIQUE AMONG OUR NATIONAL EMBLEMS AND DESERVES RESPECT, CARE AND PROTECTION.

**YOUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF
VETERANS ... AND ALL AMERICANS ... ARE
APPRECIATED HERE IN WISCONSIN.**

**WISCONSIN HAS SHOWN ITS PATRIOTISM AND
COMPASSION FOR OTHERS BY PROVIDING
NUMEROUS BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR OUR
STATE'S VETERANS.**

**WE ARE BUILDING VETERANS LONG-TERM HEALTH
CARE FACILITIES AND NEW VETERANS
CEMETERIES. WE'RE ALSO MAKING SURE ALL
VETERANS CAN RECEIVE FULL MILITARY FUNERAL
HONORS.**

**WE ALSO HAVE THE NATION'S BEST PROGRAM TO
HELP HOMELESS VETERANS BECOME PRODUCTIVE
CITIZENS OF THE NATION THEY ONCE DEFENDED.**

**WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH, BUT WE HAVE
MUCH MORE TO DO. WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER
TO REMEMBER THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED
PRESERVE OUR FREEDOM.**

**WE NEED TO CHERISH THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT
ABRAHAM LINCOLN WHO SAID,
“FREEDOM IS THE LAST, BEST HOPE ON EARTH.”**

**YOUR EFFORTS HAVE TRULY MADE THIS COUNTRY
A BETTER PLACE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO
ENJOY THE FREEDOM THAT COMES WITH LIVING IN
THE UNITED STATES.**

**LET US WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE FUTURE
GENERATIONS WILL KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF
THAT FREEDOM.**

THANK YOU. GOD BLESS AMERICA.