



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2015*

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## Auxiliary President Tammy - Installation Address



**Tammy Wright**  
2015 - 2016

Thank you ladies and gentlemen! I can't tell you how honored I am to stand before you today as Department of Iowa American

Legion Auxiliary President. We begin our year in 2015 during "The Year of the Veteran," how appropriate since our theme this year is "Honoring our Veterans – Past, Present, and Future!" The symbol this year will be red, white and blue stars. I hope you have fun with them. They can be rock stars, movie stars, shooting stars, general stars, as in 4 star generals, the sky is the limit! Oh wait, there are stars there too!

I would like to emphasize that is OUR year. I would like OUR leadership team to stand. If you are a Past Department President, Staff, Department Officer, serving on a committee, or a District President. . . Please look around the room ladies – these are our organization's Department Leaders. I know there are many leaders in this room whether you serve this organization, your household or another organization, you ladies and gentlemen know how to lead and we're going to need your leadership skills to keep our organization alive and thriving so we will be here to continue to honor and care for our veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow! We need to band together to make this happen. I love this organization as I know you do too. It's in my blood, it has been bred into me. I BEG of you to take our membership goals seriously and view them with an open, **can do attitude!** National set our membership goals this year and it's going to be BIG ladies. We **MUST** embrace this in order to stop the membership slide or we will not have an organization. I have seen great changes in our organization over the past 30 years and they have not all been positive. We HAVE to be nice to each other and treat each other with respect. We have to keep in the forefront of our minds that it's not about us, it's about "Honoring our Veterans – Past, Present, and Future!" Let's work to make our members feel welcome and appreciated! WE CAN DO THIS!



All are invited to a reception today at the Swisher American Legion Post in Swisher following the close of today's business. I will join you at the close of the Department Executive Committee Meeting, immediately following installation. Swisher is just 15 miles south of here. You are also invited to join us at Department Leadership Workshop August 1, as we share information about our organization. We need to nurture, develop and encourage our future leaders. There is a sign-up sheet and a \$15.00 fee that covers your blue book, meal and Plan of Action. That sign-up sheet is located outside the door where Swisher Unit members will have this year's pins available to purchase for \$3.00.

We need to have great COMMUNICATION and awesome TEAMWORK to make this the successful year! It's up to us to stop the membership slide and save our organization!

I am thankful for my family that were able to join me today. Please join me on stage while Joyce Hopfensperger and Mary Bryan sing, "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place" Introduce family – anyone have anything to say?

## 2015-2016 Department Executive Committee American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa



**1st Row (left to right):** Life Member of DEC Tooter Baker, Life Member of the DEC Jeanne Carson, Vice President Sharon Anderson, Executive Director Marlene Valentine, President Tammy Wright, NEC Ann Crawford, Chaplain Vickie Klinkhammer, Historian Rhonda Siefering.  
**2nd Row (left to right):** 1st District President Joyce Hopfensperger, 2nd District President Rhonda Riede, 3rd District President Shirley Warnke, 4th District President Karyla McCune, 5th District President Deanna Shannon, 6th District President Mary Jo McLaughlin, 7th District President Rose Shoening, 8th District President Phyllis Warren, 9th District President Michelle Copple.  
**3rd Row (left to right):** Life Member of DEC Mary Jo Berning, DEC Member Mary Littrell, DEC Member Diana Shaddock.

I ask that our children, Bruce, Brittany and Richie light candles to remember those who would have liked to have joined us today, however, God had another plan for them.

In addition to my "real" family, I would like to have my Swisher American Legion Family stand and be recognized. I can't thank you enough for your support and encouragement. Please remain standing and be joined by the Johnson County American Legion Family. First District American Legion Family will you please stand. I have always said that I come from a very strong American Legion Family, not only biological, but my American Legion Family of Swisher, Johnson County and First District! Thank you! You may be seated. I am so thankful and realize that have been blessed in SO many ways. It was a very nice coincidence that this ceremony could be so close to home so that many friends outside of our American Legion Family could be here today. As you know I am fortunate to serve as Executive Director of Bur Oak Land Trust and I appreciate all of the support from my staff, volunteers and the Bur Oak Land Trust Board of Directors that are making it possible for me to

juggle both of these positions this year. I would be remiss if I did not extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to Past National President Sandi Dutton for being here and for taking part in our ceremony. Sandi lives in Maryland, so it's extra special that she took time out of her busy life to be with us today. When Sandi was National President I had the honor and privilege of serving as one of her Pages for National Convention in Hawaii as well as at the National Executive Committee meeting during the Washington Conference. What a great experience, opportunity and true gift those positions were. Thank you very much!

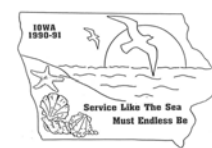
Now, it is my distinct honor and privilege to make my first official

duty as Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary President a presentation to my Father-in-law, Ben Wright. Ben is a WWII veteran who went to school with my mother. I am pleased for this organization to be able to present him with his Quilt of Valor.

Richie, my son who some of you still remember singing "You're the Grand Old Flag" approximately 16 years ago at the First District Conference Luncheon when he was 4 years old, will sing "The Impossible" followed by "Mr. Wright" also known in some parts as "Elvis" singing "If I Can Dream."

Thank you ALL for being here today and for allowing my dream to come true right now! I look forward to a great year serving WITH YOU!

\*\*\*\*\*REQUEST\*\*\*\*\*



**Past Department President Lucie Davis (1990-1991) President's pin is missing from the Department Office.**

**If there is anyone that would like to donate one of her pins for the Past Department Presidents photo board, please let us know. Mrs. Davis' pin would complete the display. Thank you.**