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The American Legion Auxiliary has accomplished much in its 90 years of service. I am very pleased that National President Rita Navarrette has chosen a theme of *“Reconnecting with our heritage to strengthen our future”*. We’ve gotten so busy with life; I think we forget “why” we joined the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Veterans are the lifeblood of our organization...they are the reason we exist. Every program the Auxiliary supports is to benefit them or their family in some way, be it a scholarship, emergency money in the event of a tragedy, to provide a plate of cookies or a meal for a homebound Veteran, to provide care and protection for the country’s children, to improve the quality of life in our community, to inspire patriotism and good citizenship, to create informed citizens who could become active in county government, to promote quality education in our communities, to provide an opportunity for young women to experience our democratic form of government, to work side by side with juniors so they can learn first hand the rewards of helping others and providing service to our Veterans and community, to inspire others to follow directions toward a common goal, to have a strong voice on behalf of the Veterans when contacting our congressmen, recognize the contributions of our female Veterans and those who pursue education in the nursing field with scholarships, to wear a poppy and receive contributions which are used for active duty hospitalized Veterans returning home from war, among other things, to use all forms of media to promote the auxiliary and its programs, and to promote all Veteran related activities in all fields. The list goes on and on. (Dept. of NE ABC Book, 2008-2009)

If we can take ownership of the sacrifices the Veterans have made, then we can pursue the goals we set in our Units without consideration for “self”. We are aware of our responsibilities as American Legion Auxiliary members. Our actions will get the job done for our Auxiliary and the Veterans. The awards and rewards will improve our lives as well as our feeling of self-worth for helping the ones who gave so much to give us our Freedom.