

**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT
SERIES 2008-2009
BULLETIN #2**

Diane Hawk
905 S. Clinton St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone (309) 828-3534
Email curtis.hawk3@verizon.net

A correction from the last bulletin, the **Department Service Officer Seminar** will be held on November 15, 2008 at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel 4191 US Hwy 36 West in Decatur, Illinois (the old Holiday Inn). Members of the Ladies Auxiliary are encouraged to also attend the seminar. The registration is \$20.00 and can be sent to the Department Service Office at 2122 West Taylor Street, Rm 105, Chicago, IL 60612 or attendees can register at the seminar itself. The seminar starts at 9 a.m. I believe. You may need to check further VFW News for that verification.

Wreaths Across America is one part of our program this year. It began 15 years ago when Worcester Wreath Company (a for-profit commercial business from Harrington, Maine) began a tradition of placing wreaths on headstone of our Nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays. This year they will be laying wreaths on December 13, 2008 at noon.

They now have wreath laying ceremonies in the following areas throughout Illinois:

Alton National Cemetery, Alton, contact Lt. Col. Paul Hertel, (618)-277-0016;

Rock Island National Cemetery, Rock Island, contact Lt. Col. Thomas Nielsen (309) 797-1588;

Abraham Lincoln Cemetery, Elwood contact Skip Hermann (773) 759-4777;

Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, contact David McKnelly (217) 753-9139;

Danville National Cemetery, Danville contact Dave Switzer (217) 497-6682;

Quincy National Cemetery and Sunset Cemetery at Veterans Home, Quincy contact Chris Brocksmith (217) 316-5483;

Mound City National Cemetery, Mound City contact Frank Caruso (618) 724-1319;

Korean/Vietnam Memorial, Bloomington contact Marti Dulac (309) 766-1522;

Middle East Conflicts Memorial Wall, Marseilles contact Craig Herkes (815) 462-5932 and Springdale Cemetery, Peoria contact Patti Smith (309) 231-5090.

You may Sponsor a Wreath for \$15.00 or you can use the wreath sponsorship as a fundraiser. For every sponsorship of \$15.00 you will have \$5.00 go back to your group. Or if you don't want to use it as a fundraiser, for every sponsoring group you can receive 3 wreaths for 2 sponsorships. For more information, check out the website www.wreathscrossamerica.org. See what you can do to honor our fallen heroes.

Another part of the program this year is **Snowball Express**. This is a chance for us to open our hearts to children and families of fallen heroes to a trip to remember to Disneyland. This project lets those that have lost the most from our war on terror to know we remember what they have lost. All Auxiliaries sending a onetime donation of \$100 or more will receive a National Citation, for those donating \$50 or more at one time you will receive a Department Citation.

"Our Dreams Become Rainbows" when we choose to sponsor one of these programs. But if we do more than that, "Together We Achieve the Extraordinary". Keep up the good work.