

Department of  
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly  
Newsletter

Oct. 2013



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Time is flying so very fast and you have been busy...but that's the way we do it. Each month I get to visit a part of Mississippi that's new to me and meet Positively Southern ladies, and loving every moment.

Aberdeen hosted a memorial program for our P.O.W.-M.I.A.s, on September 20, the official day of remembrance, and if you've never attended one, it needs to be a "must" for next year. By then maybe more Posts

and Units will have similar programs.

My home unit, along with Jackie Baughman, hosted the joint homecoming for Commander Angie and me---thank you, for all that you did to make this a success. I do believe everyone had a "boot scootin'" good time. Thanks to all that attended.

Have you sent in your application for our Carnival Ball that will be in Natchez? This is a fund-raiser for our Department Support Fund, which helps with expenses during the year. Chairman Lou Wilkerson has explained the how-to, the whys, and has given you many great ideas to raise your money, so now it's up to you!

I love Carnival and want all of you to enjoy it, too. We also need the men to participate-we don't want an all-woman ball!

For my Special Project, I wanted our money to stay in MS, so we have finally figured it out. The Department has the Camp Shelby Chaplain's Fund, and by raising money for this, we will be able to assist our veterans and active military when needed. Of the money we raise, 75% will stay here and 25% will go to the National President's Special Project. When donating, please mark your check for Special Project.

CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

- Southern Area Conference, Oct. 19, Tylertown
- Central Area Conference, Oct. 26, Post 112, Jackson
- Northern Area Conference, Nov. 2, Batesville

Please get those renewals sent in --new members, too, but we need to remember those that are already in our group. Chairman Angela has more to say on this, so be sure to check out her article!

Prayers for our military, veterans and members of our Legion family, that are ill.

For God and Country,

*Rose Blanchard*  
Department President

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



all the new people that we get to meet.

My first National Convention in Houston was an awesome experience. Picture this, walking into a room with over a thousand women that are all there for the same purpose, to

This year is getting off to a great start, with so many activities going on through out the state and

help our Veterans! Woman from all over the United States gathering for the same goal. It was really a blessing to see how much this Auxiliary does and continues to do on a daily basis.

Your Department Chairmen have been busy getting their Plans of Action turned in, so we can get the final copy to you. Units, please make sure you know these dates; Mid-Year reports are due in by Dec. 1, 2013, and Annual reports are due in by May 31,

2014. These dates are important and I hope all of you are keeping good records so your reporting will be easy. Department Chairmen should be prepared to give a report at the Fall Conferences. Speaking of Fall Conference, I would like to urge all Units to make plans to attend the one in your area. The conferences are for all of us to learn and be better prepared to help our Veterans and Communities. Hope to see you all there.

*Mary Barrett, 1st V. P.*

2013-2014  
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

- ROSE BLANCHARD, PRESIDENT
- MARY BARRETT, 1ST V. P.
- ANITA MCALLISTER, 2ND V. P.
- EVA FORD, HISTORIAN
- JACKIE BAUGHMAN, CHAPLAIN
- SARAH EDWARDS, NEC
- MARY RIED, ALT. NEC
- NANCY SANDERS, SECRETARY/  
TREASURER

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## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Hello ladies, I hope you have all had a wonderful start to the month. It has been a busy month for us. Now, moving on to business. We are in need of TIME, MONEY and SWEATSHIRTS.

**TIME:** Our busiest months are approaching at the Biloxi VA and the other VA's in our State. Please remember that your time at a VA means the world to our Veterans. With the holidays, we are always short on volunteers.

Please mark on your calendars the upcoming events and try to recruit more volunteers. We are in need of volunteers for the Stand Down, the Fall Carnival (October 19), and Christmas Gift Shop. If you have never joined us, I encourage you to do so because this is a very rewarding experience. It is so

wonderful to see the joy on their faces and they are always so thankful that we are there helping.

**MONEY:** We are in need of donations for the gift shop at the Biloxi VA, December 23 and Christmas Cheer December 9.

**SWEATSHIRTS:** They are expecting around 300 homeless Veterans for the Stand Down, October 10. We continue to need dark sweatshirts sizes medium to 3x. The Veterans love this time of year when they get some new clothes. Units that would like to participate please start collecting now. When you come to volunteer you can bring the sweatshirts with you.

I am looking forward to meeting all of our VA Reps and visiting the other VA's in our state. Email or Call me to schedule this visit. Don't waste time and Monkey around!

What is going on in your Unit/District?

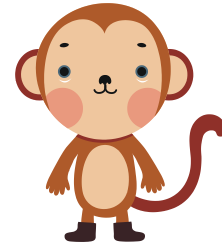
Just a reminder: Department Reps and Deputies, please email or call me with your upcoming events. 228-875-8384; Cell 228-365-6478; e-mail [camatina@bellsouth.net](mailto:camatina@bellsouth.net).

Remember our mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support our Veterans.

**WE DON'T MONKEY AROUND!!**

For God and Country,

*Anita McAllister 2nd Vice*



## FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN EVA FORD



Our National Convention has come and gone. The many early morning sessions of the convention was well attended. All sessions were planned and started in a timely and orderly manner. Mississippi officers and representatives were visible and about the business of performing their duties.

The Mississippi delegates dressed in their gold designer shirts and khaki pants for the annual parade. The parade was well organized; both Legions and Auxiliary members looked dignified. Hats off to all involved.

The dept. caucus session began with Secretary Nancy Sanders preparing the delegation for the pros and cons of the days forthcoming. Shirley Fraser, 2012

-2013 Southern Division National Vice President, updated the delegates on long and short term goals, upcoming events and pertinent voting information.

This writer voted on several issues regarding the by-laws and elections of national officers. The new machine for voting was new to all and challenging for some, but, easy once you learned the "click."

The session was topped with our National Historian Angela Kilcrease debut on stage and later elected Southern Division National Vice President for 2013-2014. She will do an excellent job. Let's assist her in shining this year.

Kathy Duncan, National Education Chairman, gave a precise and complete report with poise, dignity and intellectual deliverance. Joyce Porter and Billie Burke both served as pages for general session; this writer served as a page for the Southern

Division Caucus session.

Our Mississippi officers, delegates and guest all made Mississippi ALA proud. All who enter the stage soared under the lights.

Now down to the business of "here and now", i.e. reports, history of your unit, special events and information regarding your units/members, that is when, where, what, who, as it relates to the past and present of your unit. Please send pictures of your activities and all of past and present of your unit. Do not take for granted that we already have the information. We just may not. Please share for the completeness of your auxiliary records. Just tell us and show us what you are doing.

"What footprints are you leaving in the sands of time?"

*Eva Ford, Dept. Historian*

## NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND

*FYI: What is the Support Fund and what does it do for you as a Unit*

The Department Support Fund is money raised by every member of the Department of Mississippi to furnish the necessities of our Dept. office.

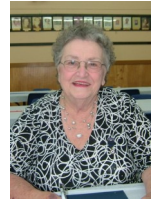
It's not for things we want, it is actually for things we need. Postage, paper, pens, envelopes, maintenance for machines, automobile, printing of materials and most of all, our secretary. I could go on but the newsletter doesn't have enough room.

Now what does it mean to you as a Unit? You get this newsletter thanks to the money earned. You get your poppies, any communications, membership information, answers to your questions when you call, and many more things I could list. Think about an office without a phone, computer, printer, copy machine and most of all without a secretary.

We have been given the task of raising \$7,000 this year. Because of a short fall in membership last year, we are operating on a deficit budget. This means that we need every dime we can raise.

This year we have come up with an idea that should help you to raise what we need without asking the same people all the time. We are going to have a Carnival Ball at Mid-Winter Conference. Members of the American Legion Family will be running for a position on the Royal Court.. We're asking you to choose a candidate and support them. We will have ads in the program and you can help by getting your community involved and selling ads. Back a candidate raise some money and everyone is a winner. See the rules for raising money and some suggestions of things to do.

*Low Wilkerson  
Dept. Support Fund*



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—DEPT. CHAPLAIN JACKIE BAUGHMAN



### **RETHINK POSSIBLE!!!**

For those that know me, my phone is constantly DEAD, so I'm continually, charging it and then the rethink possible message appears. Have you ever wished you could rethink BEFORE you spoke? I know I have. If we would place our hearts and minds in HIS hands, what a wonderful world it would be. I would be able to give the prayer in my heart and not in my head. I could let everyone know how I truly feel on matters, without fear of rejection. But like so many of us, I don't always think my thoughts through before opening my mouth, and LOOK what comes out!!!! What I think I'm saying is not the way it's understood by other, and I wish I had not opened my mouth.

"For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Romans 10:11.

May we all take a moment to rethink, what we could accomplish if we ALL prayed together, gave each other our love, support, and strength. We have a great organization and a great opportunity to bring new ideas, and purpose to our units, districts, and state. Let's begin NOW. RETHINK membership, community service, veterans at home and in the nursing homes. Our community needs us in their lives, and our young certainly need the love, and guidance that we as a Legion family can give them.

The holidays are upon us, so let's keep our hearts and minds open, not only to the season but to Him that we may think, pray and work to honor Him, our families, Legion family, and our country.

Looking for pictures and addresses from unit chaplains. It's never too early to start Mid-Year reports!!!!

**For God and Country,**

*Jackie Baughman, Dept. Chaplain*

## NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### NATIONAL SECURITY



The National Convention is over, and a new year begins. I hope that all the units have already begun working on the National Security Program and not wait on the Plan of Action. There is so much that can be done before we receive the Plan of Action for this year. Halloween is coming up, and you can do so much with the children in your community, especially if you have a military base close by or military families in your area. You can also start thinking about Veterans Day activities. If you have a Junior Unit, please include them in your activities. Thank you for your service to the veterans, our active duty service men and women, and their families. We need to keep each of them in our prayers and thank them every chance we get for their service to our country and for the freedoms we are blessed to have each day. I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Area Conferences.

*Sarah Edwards, Chairman*

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Fall brings many opportunities to be of service to our communities. October 26 is Make A Difference Day. Units can organize, deliver and participate in service projects for veterans, service members and their families throughout their communities. Some projects you can try are as follows: Invite children of the veterans and active duty servicemen and women to your Post/Unit Halloween Carnival. Sign up to serve as a volunteer at your local VA facility or hospital to assist a patient for a day or on a continuous basis throughout the year. Attract students from local schools to participate in your holiday children's events, or place posters at your local food vendors that the homeless in your community knows the address of a local shelter. As Halloween is approaching, let your communities know that you are there for assistance to their veterans, service members and their families.

*Melissa Seward, Chairman*

### LEGISLATIVE



Hello Ladies!! I am so excited!!! I have had the chance to give my thoughts to one of our State Congressman, Steven Palazzo, by email. I know it was probably an aide, but still I was asked about my thoughts on the war in Syria. Just think if we could get our voice heard up in DC what we could do for our veterans. That is why we must keep our veteran's issues in front of our legislators, which will strengthen our mission to serve our veterans, and their families.

Ladies, you might want to try to hold a town hall-type community event at the Legion Post and invite legislators to come and discuss issues that impact veterans, active duty military and their families. Unit Chairwomen, do you know what The American Legion priorities are? Visit the American Legion website at [www.legion.org/legislature](http://www.legion.org/legislature) to find the latest information. With more than 900,000 voices, we, Auxiliary volunteers, can be heard in Washington. Let us continue to email, write or speak to our State Legislators for the benefit of our veterans.

*Beverly Cottom, Chairman*

### LEADERSHIP

Your Leadership Team is **HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY!** We traveled to District 3 on Sept. 28 for a District-wide Workshop. District 3 President Lynette Criss and her team hosted a nice day for us all. Thank you to the members of District 3 who attended!

Nancy and I are working on a special workshop for Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez. Stay tuned for more information next month!

Remember to continue working on Leadership Correspondence Courses. Never to late to take the test!

*Angela Kilcrease and Nancy Sanders, Co-Chairmen*

**AMERICANISM**

Fall conferences are on the horizon. Plans of Action are in the works. There were 911 and POW/MIA observances throughout the State of Mississippi; therefore, Unit Americanism Chairmen/Unit Presidents, start recording your activities. I realize there are units that do not have an Americanism Chairman, units that do not meet, or occasionally meet,, but I would like to encourage all 82 Unit Presidents, make sure your unit is represented at Mid-Winter Conference and State Convention, by recording and sending reports to the Department chairmen..

Important Dates to Remember: October 13—Birthday of the U.S. Navy (1775) of which my four (4) Veterans, (father, brother, daughter, and son) served; October 14 Columbus Day (observed), when our Great Nation was discovered; and October 31 is Halloween.

\*\*Kosciusko was the home of the 1st POW, William Bailey, in the Viet Nam Era. There was a jingle made for this brave soldier called “Bill Bailey want you please come home.” Attala County was the home for a KIA soldier Dwight Hodges, his daughter was born days after his death. Also, Attala was the home of Franklin Zollicoffer, a MIA/KIA. Presently, there are 17 brave men from the State of Mississippi that are classified as MIA/KIA from the Viet Nam Era. Always keep our brave military in pray.

\*\*\* Samuel Wilson, a meat distributor from Troy, New York, was referred to as “Uncle Sam” because soldiers began saying that Uncle Sam was feeding the Army. The fact that the “U” and “S” of Uncle Sam’s initials were the same as the United States was coincidental. In 1961 Congress passed a resolution certifying Uncle Sam as a symbol for the USA.

Trivia questions: (1) Who made this famous drawing of Uncle Sam? (2) Who was Sam Wilson’s best friend, a horticulturist, who traveled the countryside, often barefoot?

*Wendy Walters, Chairman*

**M.E.M.B.E.R.S.H.I.P.**

Happy News is what I like! The latest National Membership Report (10/2/2013) shows Mississippi in 7th Place nationwide in membership! Yep, give yourselves a good pat on the back for a job well done!

**More happy news:** the winners of the 1st Unit to reach 100% challenge issued last month by Jackie Baughman, Dept. Chaplain and member of our new Bay Springs unit, was won by TWO of our newest units: Lucedale Unit 53 (CURRENTLY AT 108.34%) and Bay Springs 71 (CURRENTLY AT 133.34%). Each will receive \$100 for their unit treasury! Ain’t that something?? Thank you, Chaplain Jackie, for supporting our membership efforts in such a POSITIVELY SOUTHERN way!

**Even more happy news:** Our State Commander of The American Legion, Angie Baughman, has given the Department \$200 to be used for our next cash incentive for membership. Here’s how it will go—each unit who reaches 100% and above by Mid-Winter Conference will have their unit placed in the hat for a chance at a \$200 prize. I want to have a full hat of unit names when it comes time for my platform report at Mid-Winter Conference on that Saturday in January. We’re going to have a great program planned for you all to enjoy—it will be a barrel full of monkeys for sure!

Now, don’t you just love HAPPY NEWS?

**HERE’S OUR PLAN FOR THE COMING WEEKS:**

As you know, Veterans Day, Nov. 11, will mark National’s first milestone objective for membership—55%. As we are currently at 33.14% (as of 10/2), we’ve got a ways to go. So, I formulated mini-targets for our department to achieve collectively:

- By Tuesday, October 8, need 177 members minimum**
- By Tuesday, October 15, need 177 members minimum**
- By Tuesday, October 22, need 178 members minimum**
- By Tuesday, October 29, need 178 members minimum**
- By Friday, Nov. 8, need 179 members minimum**

As you can see, we need 889 members for our 55% for the Veterans Day Objective...however, our Department deadline is Friday, Nov. 8, so we have time to process prior to Veterans Day holiday. **LET’S DO THIS THING—DON’T MONKEY AROUND!**

*Angela Kilcrease, Chairman*

## NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### PUBLIC RELATIONS



Greetings! The goal of Public Relations is to promote, publicize, and re-educate the general public and our members about our core program values of serving Veterans and their families.

Ladies! I challenge you to increase electronic communication with members by achieving an increase in the number of e-mail addresses on the file with the Department of Mississippi.

The Department is trying to build a database of emails of all of our Auxiliary members. Have a designated person in your unit to collect email addresses of their members and send them to our Department Secretary, Nancy Sanders, at [ALAMSHQ@att.net](mailto:ALAMSHQ@att.net).

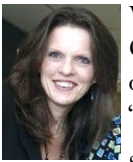
Electronic communications means new ways to communicate. Electronic communications are very good for communicating. Electronic communications refers to the modern methods and tools we use to communicate with each other. It allows us to participate in online social networks such as e-mail, discussion forums, and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Electronic communication is a very fast and efficient method of getting messages across.

Again, this committee is to promote, publicize, and re-educate the general public and our members about our core program values of serving Veterans and their families.

*We don't monkey around!*

*Charlotte Williams, Chairman*

### JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



Well, our year is on it's way, let's not monkey around! I need each unit to email me who their Junior Activities Chairman is and contact information for them. Email me at [mississippigirl82@gmail.com](mailto:mississippigirl82@gmail.com). The patch program is on it's way, have you checked out our Facebook page for the patch for each month? Please spread the word to "like" our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DeptOfMSJuniorActivities?>

Send me your information on upcoming events, programs and how your Juniors are doing.

Let's spread the word that our Juniors are active in Mississippi!!

*Penny Press, Chairman*

### PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Our Department President Rose has chosen Camp Shelby Chaplain's Project and National ALA Veterans Emergency Fund as her special projects this year. We will give National 25% of the money RAISED and 75% will go to the Camp Shelby Chaplain's Project for our Mississippi Veterans and their families. In the near future, our soldiers will be coming home, and they will need our help.

We are working hard to have the 2014 Legion Family calendar ready by October 19 for the Fall Conference in Tylertown. We have received pictures from the Department office and all over the state from our members. You may be surprised to find your picture in the calendar.

We will have raffle tickets on a large red pottery bowl donated by Kudzu Pottery and a beautiful monkey baby quilt donated by Madelyn Vuncannon. Also bring your change--Lil Ms Monk will be there, and she's always hungry. Don't forget your dollars, either! I will have my pinned on as a reminder (I take checks, too).

I know with your support and as a team we can make a difference for our Veterans and their families.

*June Laws, Chairman*



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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E-mail: ALAMSHQ@att.net

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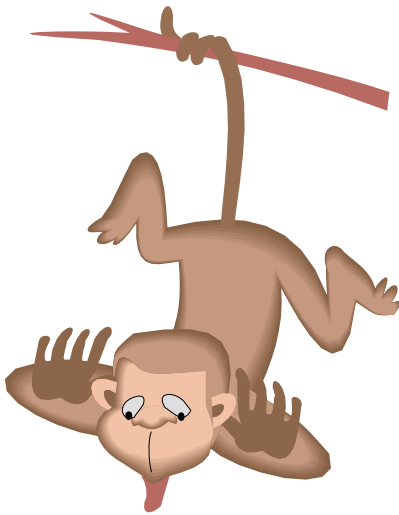
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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION

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## FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



### Greetings from the Department!

Greetings from the Department. It's beginning to feel a little like Autumn, and it is so refreshing! We just finished the Assessments, and they are being mailed separate from this newsletter, so be looking for them. Just a reminder to get these Assessments back to the Department as quick as you can so we can send the Christmas Cheer to our VA Representatives to prepare for Christmas, the Position Bond payment to National Headquarters to bond your Treasurers, and the Legion Special for Gift Shops for the Jackson VA Hospital and the Biloxi VA Hospital.

We have received a couple of calls from units whose membership remittals were either not correct or it went to the wrong address. Since the renewal statements have already gone out this quarter, there is nothing we can do about it at this time. If your unit needs your amounts corrected or the "mail renewals to" address changed, please let the Department Headquarters know a.s.a.p.

Don't forget October brings "Make a Difference Day". Please remember to make a difference to the homeless veterans, the families of the active duty servicemen or women, and to our most important veterans in the hospitals and nursing homes during this month. Use our facebook page to let us all know what you are doing in your communities. Our National, Divisional and State officers and chairmen read our facebook page. Let's give them something that will be impressive!

In closing, be kind to one another because Santa is going to be watching you for the next couple of months and you sure don't want a bag of switches to turn up in your stocking!

For God and Country I remain,

*Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer*

### MANY THANKS!

*Thank you to everyone that attended our Homecoming, on Saturday, in Bay St. Louis. We had a great turn-out, despite the weather across the state. We've said we are going to have a fun year, and we believe we're off to a good start. An extra-large thanks to June Laws and her "helpers" for a terrific meal, the fun décor and all it took to put together a wonderful evening. Jackie Baughman...thank you for everything you have done! If we tried to name everyone that worked on this, we might forget someone, so to each of you a huge thank you. We've monkeyed around and are recharged, so back to work on our membership and other programs, y'all.*

*Also, Jackie and Pat Baughman wishes to thank everyone for their anniversary cake and well wishes at the Homecoming as well.*

*Angie Baughman, State Commander*

*Rose Blanchard, Department President*

# Don't Monkey Around!

## A SPECIAL STORY OF SERVICE

I would like to share with you a special story of service by our Department.

We were contacted about a week or so ago about one of our wounded heroes who was in dire need of assistance. He lost his home and was taken in, along with his wife and two children, by another veteran in Pass Christian. Shortly after, his friend sadly committed suicide, and he and his family were forced to leave that home. Another kind friend, also a veteran, took them in and offered them a place to stay until they could find a place of their own. This is where the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary of Mississippi came into the picture. Their needs were food and assistance to get some paperwork filled out for his 100% disability. He sent everything in but as happened too often one of his papers was missing, lost said the VA.

The Department's Camp Shelby Chaplains Fund came to the rescue. We were able to furnish \$200 for food for this veteran and his family as a short-term need. The VA paperwork was handled by the county service officer after we contacted them on the veteran's behalf. We then turned our attention to housing. In the meantime, his mother-in-law called and said that if he could back home to Texas, the family would be able to offer them support. This young man had to have out-patient surgery on Tuesday, and they planned to leave today. They rented a U-Haul and when they went to get the money for gas learned that an old bill from their old house was taken out of the account by the phone company in the amount of \$357, thus depleting their checking account. Once again the American Legion Family came to the rescue, and three Units and two Posts came up with \$250 for gas. In addition, the employees at a place where a member works came up with an additional \$75. He and his wife and kids left after the kids went to sleep. They are on their way home to Coppers Cove, Texas.

There is an important reason why I tell you this story: #1 it shows cooperation; #2 it shows that the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is alive and well; and #3 it shows how much we need the Camp Shelby Chaplains Fund.

The fund is more than candy and popcorn its assistance to our Heroes—assistance when they think they have nowhere to turn.

Now is the time to get busy and help make the Camp Shelby Chaplain's Fund grow. I'm not the chairman of this account, but I have seen first hand what the fund can do. June Laws is the person who will be contacting you and asking for your help. Please dig deep and do your best to build the fund designed to help our most needy Heroes.

Once again to everyone who helped this Hero, I will not name names because you know who you are, and I leave you with the last words our hero said to me, "you are awesome," remember he meant you.

*Low Wilkerson, PDP, Unit 139, Bay St. Louis*

## **S.O.S.**

### **A VETERAN NEEDS OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT NOW!**

**We received a request from the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, regarding financial assistance for a veteran there who plans to participate in the Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Reno, Nevada, in October. He needs help with travel expenses, estimated around \$2,000.**

**The Veterans Creative Arts Festival is almost completely sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary nationally, but coordinated through the VA. The Department of Mississippi supports this program each year with a minimum of \$1,000 in donation to support its production each year in a selected city.**

**Mississippi has not had a representative thus far at this festival, so wouldn't it be great if we could help this artist fulfill his dream?**

***Can your unit send a donation to help veteran artist Wolf Keissling?***

**Please send whatever you can personally or from your unit to the Department Office today, noting on your check *Keissling Donation-VCAF*.**

**Let's do what we can to support his veteran artist's dream, please!**