

*From The Desk of the Dept. President*

*Virginia "Ginger" Brehmer*

*Hello Members,*

*First, I would like to give a warm welcome to all our members. So Welcome Florida!! It's truly a pleasure to welcome you all from myself and the great Department of Florida VFWA. I saw so many familiar faces and some new ones too, all united by our shared commitment to supporting our veterans and their families at our Department Convention. Today, we come together not just as colleagues, but as friends and family, ready to embark on another year of making a difference.*

*A few thoughts on Our Mission and Goals for this year.*

*Our mission is clear, and our goals are ambitious. We aim to work as a cohesive unit, embodying the spirit of "1 Voice, 1 Family, 1 Team." Our voices, when united, are powerful. Our family, when supportive, is unbreakable. And our team, when working together, is unstoppable. Together, we strive to support our veterans' rights and needs, ensuring they and their families receive the care and recognition they deserve.*

*Unity in Action*

*Unity isn't just a word, it's an action. Have we not seen it in the way we collaborate with the VFW, working hand-in-hand to advocate for our veterans? Can there be any doubt about the impact of our dedicated efforts in VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Community Living Centers? What about our support of the VFW National Home for Children or Florida's own Veterans Village? Through these efforts, haven't we shown that together we can achieve great things?*

*Joint special Project*

*I'm particularly excited about our Joint Special Project this year: Freedom Ride. This equestrian therapy program is a shining example of our dedication. Have you ever wondered how powerful the bond between human and horse can be? It's designed not only for veterans with PTSD but also for troubled and compromised youth. Can you imagine a place where healing happens through such a unique connection? It's a place where our veterans and young people can find peace and strength. Isn't it incredible to think about the transformation that can occur in such an environment?*

### *Volunteer Impact*

*Our impact as volunteers cannot be overstated. Can you imagine the joy we bring to the faces of veterans in VA Hospitals? Think about the comfort we provide in Nursing Homes and the support we offer at the Fisher House. Isn't it remarkable how each visit, each conversation, and each act of kindness adds up to make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve?*

### *A call to Unity*

*As we move forward, let's continue to embrace our motto this year of "Unity" and our theme of "1Voice, 1 Family, 1 Team." Let's keep working together in unity, supporting each other and our veterans with unwavering dedication. Remember, it's not just about what we do, but how we do it—together, as one united front. Thank you for being here, for your dedication, and for your unyielding support. If we keep our sights on these and our many other program goals there is no end to what we "Team Florida" can achieve! Let's make this year our best yet!*