

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME:

**“GROWING STRONGER FOR
OUR VETERANS”**

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME:

“SERVING AMERICA'S HEROES”

The purpose of the Special Project is to promote and raise funds to support treatment and research that is important to the Department President.

Department President Kathy Wright has chosen Esophageal Cancer Research as her Special Project. Her husband, Past State Commander Glenn Wright, (2024—2025), passed away from this cancer on October 2, 2025.

All monies raised will go to the **Moffitt Cancer Center** in Tampa, Florida. Moffitt is one of the **top cancer research centers in the United States and the strongest research infrastructure in the state of Florida.**

Moffitt actively runs esophageal cancer clinical trials and **ALL** donations directly fund research and clinical trials. **100% of ALL donations go to the foundation supporting research and patient care.**

Moffitt describes Esophageal cancer as the cancer that “develops in the esophagus, the muscular organ that carries swallowed food and liquids through the throat and into the digestive tract. In most cases, the tumor begins in the organ’s moist inner lining.” Moffitt also states that “cancer that originates in the esophagus is relatively uncommon, accounting for approximately 1% of cancer diagnosis in the U.S. About 22,500 new cases have been diagnosed in the U.S. in 2026. There have been about 16,290 deaths this year from esophageal cancer.

Esophageal Cancer is linked to persistent acid reflux (GERD), Barrett’s Esophagus, smoking, and excessive alcoholic beverages consumption, among others. Esophageal cancer tends to grow slowly with no noticeable symptoms for many years, making early detection difficult.

The American Cancer Society states that esophageal cancer is more common in men than women. Overall, and depending on risk factors, the lifetime risk in the U.S. is 1 in 132 in men and about 1 in 437 for women. This cancer becomes more common as people get older. About 9 out of 10 esophageal cancers are diagnosed in those who are 55 years of age or older.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS THIS YEAR:

DAISY \$100—\$499

CARNATION \$500—\$999

ROSE \$1000—\$1599

RED HIBISCUS \$1600 +

******* ALL DONATIONS THIS YEAR SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE CONTRIBUTION REPORT FORM FOUND ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE*****

DO NOT JUST PUT A NOTATION IN THE MEMO LINE OF THE CHECK! APRIL 15TH IS THE LAST DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL PROJECT THAT WILL COUNT TOWARDS AWARDS.

Becky Kieffer
Chair / President's Special Project
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