

January 3, 2022

Dear Department President and members;

My name is Joyce Bilyeu, and I am California's endorsed candidate running for the high office of National Guard 2022-2023. I have been a member of my auxiliary 4647 for 28 years though the eligibility of my father, Dick Bilyeu who served 20 years in the US Army during WWI and was a POW for 3/12 years and Bataan Death March Survivor.

First of all I just want to thank you in advance for taking a few minutes of your time to read this letter and share my brochure with your members.

I have been planning and preparing to be the National President from the time I became President of my own Auxiliary, and continued working towards this goal as District President, and then as Department President in 2011/2012.

Throughout my 28-year membership, I have worked very hard to **learn and earn** my way to this high office.

I have the full support of my family, friends, my Auxiliary 4647, District 17, and Past District 17 Auxiliary Presidents. Additionally, I have had tremendous support from members all around the United States. Their confidence in my leadership skills and ability is evident because of the many National appointments that eight (8) Past National Presidents selected me for (as you will see in my brochure). These National leadership positions prepared me to serve someday as a National Line Officer and eventually as National President

Throughout the years, the membership of the Auxiliary and VFW has inspired me. I have personally seen and experienced the sacrifices members make for others. Many of our veterans come home with a duffle bag full of issues, and their sufferings did not end on the battlefield.

You too **ALSO** served - but your service...*was on the front lines of humanity*. I have witnessed many of you having the courage to care. You became the military caregivers. You listened to their stories, you cared for their needs, you became their support group, and most of all, you became their *"Partner in Hope"*. And because of that... the world is a better place. I believe that there is no other organization in the World that has this kind of *"Goodwill and Humanitarian Spirit"*.

For 40 years, I have been a very successful and effective leader in my professional career, and my community service life. As a leader of this organization, I can promise you this:

- I will listen to you, I will hear what you have to say,
- I will hear what your needs are, and pay close attention to the needs of the VFW and Auxiliary.
- I will take what I have learned from you (as I go through the line) and together **WE** will determine the goals and where we want to go in the future as an organization.

Some of my leadership styles and qualities include:

- First, I am a *"Servant Leader"*. My leadership is generally about serving others.
- I am very passionate about **Fairness and Justice** for all and treating people with respect & dignity, and without judgment while always looking for the best in others.

- I am open to new ideals and appreciate diversity.
- I am a good communicator and believe in being transparent.
- I know when to step up **AND** smart enough to know when it step back.
- I believe in giving credit to those who deserve it; and if there is a problem, I will take full responsible and work towards solutions.

If you vote for me as National Guard, I can promise you that I will be pro-active in keeping our organization, respected, strong, thriving, and trustworthy while always keeping our principles and core values at the forefront.

I have worked very hard to prepare for this position for several years. I am **ready**, I am **highly qualified**, and have **earned this opportunity** to represent the Auxiliary and the United States overall as a national leader of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

I know that this past few years has brought unimaginable challenges...but we must continue to push ourselves to find the light in the midst of the dark. These is past year has been very painful, confusing, and scary for all of us. Many of you and your family members (such as mine) were touch with the Covid-19. Some of you even lost a loved one. There are no words to express how horrible this has been on the world, our organization, and most of all our families.

However, the Auxiliary did not falter when it came to serving our organization. We continued to find new and innovated ways to provide ***“Unwavering Support to Uncommon Heroes”***. Showing the universe that even a worldwide pandemic could not stop us from serving.

This is the true ***“Spirit of Humanity”*** that I want to continue to be a part of and carry forward....because ***“humanity will always light the way”*** in creating a ***“Pathway to Hope for a Brighter Future for Veterans”***.

In closing, I would kindly appreciated it if you took a few minutes to read my brochure to learn a little more about my eligibility, my professional career, and my qualifications or feel free to reach out to me. I would be honored, if your Department would consider voting for me as for the 2022-2023 National Guard.

Thank You and God Bless You!

Joyce Bilyeu, Candidate for National Guard

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