Department President Nancy Kurk
Inaugural Speech

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Department President. My quest to lead our great organization has taken many years, but the lessons I have learned and moreover the friendships that have been made have made the journey a most enjoyable one.

There are so many people to thank and many of you don't even realize the impact that you have made. First my family, for many years of rearranging parties, and even births to accommodate American Legion Auxiliary activities and commitments. The Committee to elect Nancy Kurk, no one could have had a better team. Chairman Debbie Herrmann and my sponsor Cathleen MacInnis have been there every step of the way along with Finance chair Pauline Lafler. Their guidance and enthusiasm have made it all possible to be standing before you today. Robson-Savage Unit #546, Middlesex, NY, Yates County. Yates County Committee and many other members have continued to encourage and support my efforts. My husband Tom, for his support, love, understanding and patience.

I was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. When I was 20 Years old I saw my first snow. Even though it was like a slip and slide from the Rochester Airport to the quaint village of Middlesex, I was in wonder of its beauty. I couldn't wait to touch it! I spent a week of snowmobiling, sliding down hill and enjoying its beauty and then back to sunny Florida. I do admit, I am not fond of brushing it off my car to go to work, or wearing boots, scarf and gloves, but I do take a moment to look at the snow piled evergreens and clean white glistening reflection and thank God for another beautiful day.

And so, my love of snow, the unique snowflake shapes and one of nature's truly beautiful landscapes determined my choice of a snowflake as the Department Presidents pin this year. "All of our members are unique, each comes of their own design some are playful some refined. . But unlike fragile snowflakes that fade when the sun appears our members grow more beautiful with every passing year."

The power of one snowflake is not very significant, but when united together they form a powerful force. That is my vision for our Department, a powerful force of "Service not Self", for our Veterans, youth and Communities.

Many members have said throughout the last three years, I bet I know what your pin is going to be. It's a hat right? My response was you will just have to wait and see. I haven't forgotten about my hats, and I sincerely hope you don't either and support the "Hats off to our Homeless Veterans",