

## **DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER JOEL BLOOM DISTRICT 1**

It was my honor and a great privilege to serve as Vice Commander on Department Commander Dan Channel's team. His motto of "CHANNELING OUR ENERGIES TO HELPING VETERANS" was our marching orders, which we all carried out.

His designer necktie "TUSKEGEE AIRMEN" was a standout whenever we wore it.

I would also like to thank my fellow Vice Commanders Kerri Long, Kevin Mitchell, John Warhurst, Dave Marciano and Historian Michael Smith for their support and all their hard work during this incredible year.

I truly enjoyed visiting every county and many, many posts throughout my five counties. I attended county meetings, special events, installation ceremonies and all those fun filled fundraisers. It was a good thing I took the highest annual mileage allowed when I leased my car last year, because I am still over, but I enjoyed every moment.

There were many special events that the team attended, High Point Veterans Memorial Service, Commander's Tee Up for Veterans, POW/MIA Watch Fire, John Basilone Parade, the God & Country Four Chaplains Memorial Service, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service and the New York City Veterans Day Parade. There were also several social events and testimonials.

There were dozens of small local services we attended, with several hosted at the Passaic County Technical High School where veterans were honored.

As part of the Legion Family, we attended many meetings and events hosted by Auxiliary President Trish Muller, SAL Detachment Commander William Murphy, and Legion Riders Director Frank Landis.

We will also be attending the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Service and the Locustwood Memorial Park Service.

Throughout the year we have all worked very hard to increase membership, which we all know is the backbone of our great organization. We attended a workshop conducted by Sophia Dmoch and conducted our own workshops within our districts. Vice Commander Dave Marciano and I assisted Sophia Dmoch in conducting the membership training at the New Jersey Legion College this year. A special thanks to Sophia (Queen Bee) for her leadership in helping to increase membership.

In closing I would also like to thank my five counties: DEC's, County Commanders and all county and post officers for their support during this fantastic year.