

## **DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER DAVID MARCIANO DISTRICT 2**

Twelve months ago, my wife Diane placed the white cap on my head, and I stepped into this year of service beside Department Commander Dan Channel and four incredible Vice Commanders. I have genuinely enjoyed serving with Joel Bloom, Keri Long, Jon Warhurst and Kevin Mitchell. I am especially grateful to our Trenton staff (John, Lois, Tammie, and Tricia) whose steady support kept us moving forward all year long.

This has been an incredibly special year for me. I will always be thankful for it. On my first trip to Indianapolis for membership training, I had the opportunity to meet Legionnaires from all over this great nation. I am glad to say many of those connections have turned into friendships I still cherish today.

Over the year, the road took me from High Point to Cape May. The Veterans Day Parade in Manhattan, to the John Basilone Parade, and the Blue Claws baseball game to the SAL Watch Fire in Seaside. Every stop was a reminder of why we do what we do and how much we can accomplish when we come together as a team for our veterans and families. One of the highlights of my year was working alongside Sophia Dmoch on membership doing presentations and speaking to Legion posts about this great organization and why membership is so important.

I would like to thank the outstanding members of the SAL, Auxiliary and Legion Riders. Wherever I went this year, I witnessed your dedication to this organization and our veterans. Detachment Vice Commander Greg Shaffer did a tremendous job of leading the SAL in District 2 alongside Department leadership.

Serving District 2 gave me a deeper appreciation of just how vast and diverse we are and how committed many posts are to our mission. Thank you Warren, Hunterdon, Sussex, and my home county of Morris for everything you do for The American Legion. I have to say, traveling around New Jersey, meeting so many legionnaires and visiting posts all over has been one of the real joys of this year.

And finally, I want to thank my family for being right there with me through it all. “TEAM MARCIANO”—my wife, Diane, our sons David and Landon (“Cherry”)—came with me to so many events, sat through more than a few long programs, and still managed to keep me grounded and smiling. Sharing this experience with me meant more to me than I can say.