

## **DEC Floor Report**

### **Vice President**

Good morning, Madam President,

Can you believe we are already through the halfway point? It began with a bang beginning with the Clovis workshop, National Convention, and then the Southern and Northern workshops. The workshops have given me an opportunity to meet new people and to put some names with familiar faces.

I had the privilege to accompany Madam President during her visit with District 22. Our tour of the San Diego VA Medical Center will forever be imbedded in my mind. Time was limited so we barely had enough time to hand out goodie bags and introduce ourselves to the veteran patients. I found the spinal ward was especially heartbreaking to me. One young man in particular touched my heart. It was one of those "if only" moments...if only I had more time to sit and with visit him. You could see he was lonely and eager to have someone sit and have a conversation with. He brought tears to my eyes.

I also visited District 15 with President Glenda. The meeting was at Tehachapi Post 221 located in the quaint town of Tehachapi.

Being the Lancaster Veterans Home representative, I was able to arrange for a tour in December when Madam President and her Personal Page, Ann Sanchez, came for her visitation to District 20.

Who remembers the movie "Full Metal Jacket" with R. Lee Ermey starring as a foul-mouthed drill sergeant nicknamed "The Gunny"? Lee Ermey was a long-time resident of the Antelope Valley where I live. When he wasn't acting, he was working for the veterans in our area until he passed away in 2018. He even opened and operated a local bar called "Bravery Brewery".

In his honor, Avenue N in Palmdale was renamed R. Lee Ermey Avenue; and on the corner at the intersection is a cleared dirt area flying the United States and POW/MIA flags. This is where many veterans and residents park to watch military jets such as the B-1, B-2, B-52, C-130 etc. practice take-offs and landings. Lee Ermey could often be found on this corner chatting and watching for the next jet to come by. R. Lee Ermey Avenue recently became one of the few musical roads in the country. Since he was a proud Marine, the Marine Battle Hymn was chosen as the song. President Glenda and Ann drove down the road and listened to the Battle Hymn as their tires hit the musical bumps.

President Glenda asked me to bring greetings to the National Commander on her behalf during his visit to California. While listening to Commander Seehafer, one realizes how dedicated he is to the American Legion

Family which he says is "personal" to him. He is also committed to bringing home POWs and MIAs. One small point of interest, to me, is that he now lives in the same small town in Wisconsin where I was born! I had an advantage no one else has had – we reminisced about OUR "little Wisconsin town".

Madam President Glenda, thank you for your guidance, for keeping me informed, and your friendship. It is indeed an honor to serve and work with you.

Madam President, that concludes my report.