



April 1, 2020

Dear Members of the Department of North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary:

As your Department Chaplain, I felt this a most appropriate time to reach out to all members within our ranks. Please share this message with members of your Unit.

The past several weeks has been stressful and uncertain not only for our unit members, but for our armed forces, our veterans and the world. We are faced with a difficult task as we practice social and physical distancing. As members of the American Legion Auxiliary, we're not "wired" for staying clear of tough times...we're geared to jump in and assist. While many are fighting this pandemic on the front lines, many of us are left to stay at home and help to stop the spread of this virus. Your job is important too!

I know that each of you is experiencing this difficult journey in your own way.

- If you are a healthcare provider, please know that you are among the bravest individuals there are.
- If you are an educator, your strength and continued instruction during this time is beyond belief.
- If you are an emergency responder, we thank you for your response to all calls.
- If you are among our law enforcement ranks, your call to duty is amazing and much appreciated.
- If you are a grocery worker, a truck driver, or a restaurant owner making meals, we appreciate your hard work and dedication to the people you serve.

There are so many essential jobs and services needed and those individuals are going above and beyond as well. There is no way possible to thank each of you for your dedication and career professionalism. You are truly our heroes during this time of crisis.

I would like to share a prayer with you...so when you're feeling separated or lonely you might gain strength through a moment of solitude and prayerful reflection.

"Heavenly Father, we ask thy blessings today on all those affected by this crippling virus. We ask that you support the weary and the tired as they fight to stay strong and perform their essential jobs so that others can remain safe and cared for. We feel your loving arms around us, and we pray for the strength to weather this storm. Help us to reach out to others and wipe away their loneliness, and help us to remember that, "beyond every cloud, there is always a rainbow". Please watch over us during these trying times. Our love and compassion for others will pull us through and we shall emerge stronger than ever. Amen."

I encourage each of you to reach out to other homebound members, pray with them and share with them the, "power of prayer".

May God Bless You and Keep You Safe.

Sandra Petermann, Department Chaplain