

**Twenty and Four**

The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires



## **THE NATIONAL JEEP**

**The Official Publication of The National Twenty and Four  
Honor Society of Women Legionnaires**

**February 2024**

Publisher: Lisa Dayhoff \* Editor: Diane Schmidt, PND \* Ethel Matuschka, Editor Emeritus



**Georgiann "Gigi" Callaway, National Director VIP**

Welcome to the second quarter of our year. We start this quarter with February which is Americanism Month. We are having a mid-year hybrid meeting. This will be an in-person and zoom meeting. The scheduled event will be in combination with the 90th Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage.

The 90th Pilgrimage was just Phenomenal! There was a myriad of Legion National and Departments leadership (which included the National Commander), various veterans organizations, and political representatives.

Last month in January, the weather was normal for winter which meant it was cold. For the Chicagoland area I was scheduled to be one of the American Legion Department of Illinois Caravan stops when it was a blaming -10 degrees with the wind chills making it 30 degrees below zero. I was there layered clothing, it wasn't pretty. However, I was able to say a few words about our organization. That weekend there was an ongoing arctic blast enveloped much of the US.

The trip to Echelon 31 in Texas was very enjoyable. The National Commander was there for the Texas Department meeting and a trip to one of their local posts, George Johns Post 447 in Round Rock, Texas. That post Commander just happened to be our very own Lisa Dayhoff. Thank you, Lisa, for such a wonderful time. I would be remised if I didn't thank the entire leadership for making it another amazing Echelon visit. Thank you Echelon 31!

"Save the Date" for Bivouac which will be August 22 – 23, 2024. The committee meetings will be held on August 22nd. If you are not on a committee and would like to sit in, you are encouraged to attend. The 23rd begins with the memorial service, followed by the annual meeting. The evening will be our Annual Bivouac Dinner. It will be up to all of us to get invitations out to everyone!

Warm Regards.

Semper Fortis

For God, Family, Country.



**Mildred Wright Pearson,  
Senior Vice National Director  
A New Year**

Greetings Jeepettes,

First of all, Happy New Year. This is a leap year and all things are possible. While I'm at it. It is my hope that you have a wonderful Valentine's Day. This is the perfect time to ask sister veterans to join our ranks. One way could be to have your Echelon invite potential members to an event such as a dinner. If they are married, approach the husband to join as a Top Hat. A well-planned Valentines event (not necessarily on Valentine's Day) may be the catalyst for new membership.

Remember, the National bivouac has set the goal of 2 new members for membership year 2023-2024. If you have lost members, you will need to replace them and gain 2 new members. Refer to your ending membership number to find out what you will need to meet the Nationally set goal. Our fiscal membership year runs from August to July each year. To get an award for membership goals, and scholarships, please refer to your National Twenty and Four, Manual of Procedures, Rules for Awards and Trophies, 2014. The membership awards are:

- **Abbie Bachelder Trophy:** Echelon that achieved 100% membership after 1 October or 30 days after the National Bivouac whichever is later
- **Barbara Mallow Award:** First Echelon with a membership over 30 to achieve 100% membership by January 30th of the current fiscal year
- **Lillian Cleveland Award:** The Echelon with the most new Twenty and Four members by June 30th

Those of you who were assigned by the National Director, VIP, to research the possibility of starting new Echelons in your geographical state area, I would like to know how you are doing and what, if any, drawbacks you are facing. If I can help in any way, please let me know. We would like to branch out to states in your area to help replace Echelons we have lost in the past. Your work in this Echelon/membership project will help improve our numbers and position as a female veteran organization. Remember: failure to try never leads to success.

Let us enjoy this new year and good luck to all in your membership goals. Hoping this will be an excellent year for an increase in Echelons as well as membership. Working together we'll get it done.

Best health to all,

Mildred S. Wright-Pearson

Mildred S. Wright-Pearson

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**Echelon 50 Alabama**

by Ginger Branson  
Post 911 Adjutant

**Douglas from Echelon 50 receives two TALMA awards**

Patti Douglas has made HISTORY AGAIN with her 2nd award from the American Legion Media Alliance.

As Public Affairs Coordinator for American Legion Post 911, she was recently awarded in the Publications AND Visual Media categories. Last year, she took home the award for Publications.



TALMA, the national media organization for members of the American Legion family, is intended for those producing media, including but not limited to public relations, social media and newsletters. To receive such an award is highly regarded.

Patti's journalism career began as a Junior in high school. In her Senior year she was an assistant editor. Fast forward, she became active in journalism and public affairs careers for 25 years in the military and now as a civilian. She received 2 degrees from Jefferson State College and with a two-year scholarship, she received another degree in Journalism at University of Montevallo in Alabama.

3 years ago, Patti became involved with Ryan Winslow Post 911, where she quickly reestablished the newsletter and became the Administrator for their Facebook page in addition to many other Post Public Relation duties.

Because of her success, she was recently appointed to the American Legion National Communications and Media Committee.

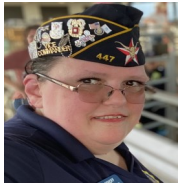
To quote Patti: "I don't know where this will take me but I look forward to working with media professionals from across the country."

We are so very proud of Patti Douglas as she again makes HISTORY.

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**Tweila-Rochelle Cauthen,  
Sky Pilot**



**Lisa Dayhoff,  
National Aide**

The last couple of months have been quiet from a membership standpoint, but we have a brand new Echelon forming as we speak in Oregon. The current membership numbers are available on the National Website (<https://twentyandfour.org/blog/membership-counts/>). This information includes all of the transmittals that I have received so far this year and there are some missing. Transmittals should be mailed to

**Lisa Dayhoff  
401 Long Run  
Liberty Hill, TX 78642**

We have also created an easier way to submit content for the Jeep! Have an article or photos that you want to see published? Head on over to <https://twentyandfour.org/blog/submit-articles/> and submit them there. Keep an eye out, we still have more plans in the works!

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**Arizona Echelon 35 Remembers Fallen Heroes**

By Judi Beischel, PND

To all our Members: I was honored to again be asked this year to honor our fallen heroes by placing the Coast Guard wreath at Mountain View Cemetery in Mesa, AZ. For the first time, they used this event to train our youth and each presenter had a sixth grade student with them. After the ceremony, we placed over 2,000 wreaths simultaneously with over 4,000 cemeteries across the country.

LET US NEVER FORGET OUR FALLEN HEROES!



**Echelon Development Eastern Area**

By Millie Hampton

Hello Jeepettes:

Already a busy though productive year. I composed a letter and prepared an informational packet of our National Society of Women Legionnaires organization for those states mentioned in our October JEEP. I was able to identify those female veterans within those specific Departments to include an invitation to join or start an Echelon. Those packets went out the week of 22 January 2024. I will follow-up with these prospective members

by phone and email.

I will keep everyone updated with the results.

Keep my family in your prayers as our premature great grandson was hospitalized for RSV and spent 4 weeks in PICU. It has been a roller coaster.

With that, we are on the roll to engage and increase our membership in the Eastern Area.

Thank you, thank you for your support and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Millie J. Hampton  
Eastern Region Representative

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**Oaths Taken**

By ML Diaz, Echelon 35

Oaths taken, promises kept  
By those over whose bodies we've wept

When enemies among us crept  
Their selfless service ensured safety while we slept

Some returned, some did not  
Some died, some were caught

Some returned in body, not in spirit  
Lost to those who could not bear it

For their sacrifices, big and small, we owe a debt  
Lest we forget, oaths taken and promises kept

\* ML Diaz has been published four times in the AIPF Anthology and once in the Academy for Lifelong Learning Creative Arts Journal. The poem below was published in the Austin International Poetry Festival's (AIPF) 2019

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**Scholarship Program,**

Cheri Stanton, PND

Just wanted to remind you we have scholarships available. The application was in our first issue and it needs to be sent in for evaluation. We have not received any applications from veterans, children of veterans or grandkids in the last few years.

**Deadline is. April 1st, 2024**

Send materials to: Cheri Stanton  
1441 East Third Avenue  
Monmouth, IL 61462

## National Director VIP visits Texas Echelon 31 Midwinter Bivouac

[By Lisa Dayhoff](#)  
[21 January 2024](#)

### Department of Texas Mid- Winter Conference

Echelon 31 had the honor of hosting National Director VIP Georgiann Galloway at our winter Bivouac on Friday, 19 January at Austin Southpark Hotel in Austin, TX. While her visit was not a long one, many of our Jeepettes got the opportunity to meet her and many interesting conversations were had. Jeepettes were encouraged to share their passions so that we can help one another make mutually beneficial connections.



### A Moment in Time

It is not every day that you get the heads of two organizations that are so closely intertwined with one another visiting the same Department at the same time. We look forward to the rest of the year and working together in the future with all of our Sister Jeepettes.



### Meeting the National Commander

With National Commander Daniel Seehafer in attendance as well, we took a few brief moments to exchange greetings and our eagerness for mutual support. The same evening, George Johns Post 447 was honored to host both National officers at a welcome reception, where Gigi got to meet Commander Dayhoff's officers and post members in addition to 10<sup>th</sup> District Commander Douglas Norton.



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**Future Jeep Deadline Dates:** January 20, 2024 for February’s issue. March 20, 2024 for April’s issue. May 20, 2024 for June’s issue “Proud to be an American”. July 20, 2024 for Pre-Bivouac issue. The 68th ANNUAL BIVOUAC and American Legion National Convention will be in New Orleans, Louisiana on August 22 - 29, 2024. This year’s Bivouac theme will be the *Great Gatsby*.

**Travel Dates:** Tentative travel to Jan. Plans for Echelons in person and virtual at National’s Pilgram Challenge in Feb. Plans are being made for Arlington and WIMSA in May!" Hopefully Ech #24 can join me. Tentative plans to visit Ech #2 in June. (Director will reach out for tentative scheduling.)

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90th Lincoln Pilgrimage, photos by Cheri Stanton, PND

In Memory



Ech 8 Director Mary Kulavic & Nat'l Dir Gigi Callaway

Edna Taylor Ech 8 Aide- They are so focused

Having fun, giving Gi a lift up to reach Lincoln's Nose.



Ech 8 with new Ech Prospects from Indiana at Lincoln's Tomb (Tracy, Ann. Gi, Beverly, Edna, Mary and Cheri)

**Arizona Echelon 35 Remembers Fallen Heroes—Photo By Judi Beischel, PND**

