

**SUZANNE CLEMENS
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April 15, 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to announce my candidacy for a position of Department Guard for the 2024-25 administration.

I joined this organization under the eligibility of my father and sponsor, Colonel Ralph O. Clemens, Jr. (USAF Ret.), who served in the Vietnam War as a fighter pilot. I am very fortunate to have had a military upbringing and the roots of patriotism were instilled in me and my siblings many years ago.

For most of the past sixteen years I have worked as a Legal Research Assistant in the Constitutional Defense Division of the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Alabama.

Three years ago, my work began with the Smith-Leonard VFW Post Auxiliary in Wetumpka, at the invitation of our current President, Regena Hight. I was quickly appointed to serve (and continue to serve), at the Local Level in the positions of Junior Vice President, Secretary, and Chair of both the Scholarship Committee and the Youth Activities Committee. During these years, the Wetumpka Auxiliary has produced two State Level winners in the *Illustrating America* art contest. At the District Level, I have served as Trustee for three consecutive years in District 5. This Spring I had the unique opportunity to assist our Department President, Patsy Cole, as Department Chairman for National President Carla Martinez's visit to Alabama. Finally, I will serve as Department Chairman for Youth Activities in the 2024-25 administration and look forward to working with each Auxiliary in this appointment.

I feel I am capable and committed to the mission of the VFW Auxiliary. I am eager to learn and committed to excellence. These are all attributes learned from an appreciation of my military upbringing and taught to me by my parents. My work with the Auxiliary would not have been possible without both of my parents' sacrifice. Like many others, I consider my volunteer work to be a tribute to them.

I would like the opportunity to grow in service with the Auxiliary and cannot do this without your assistance. I ask for your consideration of me as your candidate for Department Guard.

In VFW Service,

Suzanne Clemens