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Letter of Intent to Seek the Office of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Department President

Dear Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas,

It is with great pride, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility that I formally announce my intent to seek the office of Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas.

My journey with the American Legion Auxiliary has been much more than an opportunity to serve. It has been a journey of personal growth, lasting friendships, renewed purpose, and a genuine love for an organization that has become such an important part of my life.

My eligibility for membership comes through two very special men in my life: my father, William Halda, who proudly served in the United States Navy, and my late husband, Richard Kerns, who also served in the Navy. Their service helped shape my appreciation for the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families.

Over the years, my involvement in the American Legion Auxiliary has grown into a passion for its mission, programs, and members. I have been fortunate to serve in leadership roles, including Department Vice President, Department Chaplain, and Department Historian, as well as offices within my unit and district over the years. These opportunities have allowed me to gain valuable experience, develop meaningful relationships, and better understand both the strengths of our organization and the challenges facing our units and districts. One of the most important lessons I have learned is that the strength of our department begins with the strength of our members. Every unit matters. Every member has something valuable to contribute. Every act of service, regardless of its size, makes a difference.

As Department President, my priorities would include strengthening membership, encouraging active participation, supporting our units and districts, developing future leaders, and promoting the programs that fulfill our mission of service to veterans, military families, and our communities.

I believe that effective leadership requires more than experience or a title. It requires the willingness to listen, the courage to make difficult decisions, the humility to learn from others, and the dedication to lead by example. I want our members to know that their

voices matter, their contributions are appreciated, and their department leadership is here to support them.
We must honor the traditions that have made the American Legion Auxiliary such a respected organization while also embracing opportunities to grow and adapt. Our future depends on our ability to welcome new members, mentor emerging leaders, communicate effectively, and work together with a shared sense of purpose.

Throughout my Auxiliary journey, I have been blessed with the encouragement of fellow members, friends, and family who have supported my commitment to this organization. Their belief in me has strengthened my determination to continue serving and to give back to an organization that has given me so much. I am honored to be endorsed and fully supported by my home unit, Boerstler-May Unit 170, and District 3.

If entrusted with the honor of serving as Department President, I pledge to lead with integrity, compassion, enthusiasm, and an unwavering commitment to our mission. I will work to build relationships, encourage teamwork, celebrate our accomplishments, and ensure that the Department of Kansas continues to move forward with pride and purpose. I am proud of where we have been, grateful for those who have helped bring us this far, and excited about what we can accomplish together.

I respectfully ask for your support and consideration as I seek the honor of serving as Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas.

Together, we can continue to honor our past, strengthen our present, and build a brighter future for the American Legion Auxiliary.

For God and Country,

Laurie Kerns