

There are three elements of the **Proposed State Regent's Project:**

Education

Patriotism

Historical Preservation

The first element is [Education](#) that will give people the opportunity to learn **The Pledge of Allegiance through Sign Language**. The

Chairs for this are Barby Frankenberry and Darla Treat Courtney.

My cousin Randy could not hear or speak but was always able to fluently communicate through reading lips, through writing and through sign language. He was schooled at the WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in Romney, WV before going to Washington DC to work at the Washington Post. He loved DC and he loved his country. Randy passed away in 2024. So, to honor his memory and to honor others who have hearing and voice impairments, I offer people an opportunity to learn ASL for *The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America*. With this element, someone can

Learn It,

Lead It at a DAR meeting or community event, and/or

Teach It to children or another group.

One of the goals is to have members share the Pledge thru Sign Language at the State Conference in 2026 when the President General, Mrs. Ginnie Storage, will be present.

For [Patriotism](#), someone will have the opportunity to help tell the story of women veterans through **"Tell Her Story"**. The Chair for this is Cindy Kolsun.

It is very important to document and tell the story of women veterans. She is depending on us to ensure her legacy, the

Memorial is depending on us to capture and preserve her story, and the nation is depending on us to ensure her history is complete, one story at a time. Details can also be found in the DAR Service to Veterans Committee on the National website.

The [*Historic Preservation*](#) will give our Daughters the opportunity to assist with the funds to replace the **Mother's Day Shrine Entrance**. The Chair for this is Pamela Bane.

This will be to help with the funding at the historic International Mother's Day Shrine that will replace the cut stone of the front steps, add a ramp to make it ADA accessible AND replace the front doors that are way too heavy.

The Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church was the first observance of Mother's Day on May 10, 1908, in Grafton. The church was then incorporated as the International Mother's Day Shrine on May 15, 1962. Then in 1970 the Shrine was named a National Historic Place but on October 15, 1992, it was added to the National Historic Landmark Registry.

The Shrine Committee will utilize the original architect's 1964 rendering of the entrance with Thrasher Engineering as the Contracting firm. The WV Daughters will not be responsible for any of the creation or approval details. We will simply be helping to fund this project.

When completed, there will be a Dedication Ceremony inside the Sanctuary of the Shrine.

STATE REGENT'S PROJECT – PLEDGE IN ASL

Chair: Barbara "Barby" Frankenberry
79 Ye Olde McDonald Orchard Lane
Inwood, WV 254428-5311
304-261-1696
bfrankenberry@aol.com

Co-Chair: Darla Treat Courtney
503 West Washington Street
Charles Town, WV 25414-1735
301-908-1856
darlatreat@aol.com

SUMMARY

Madam State Regent Sandra Isner-Johnson plans to include a program for teaching children to recite the Pledge of Allegiance using American Sign Language (ASL). Although the project is yet to be approved, we are laying a groundwork that will include basic fingerspelling, plans for creating an educational video to be shared with the chapters, and the distribution of certificates of achievement to those who successfully master the Pledge in ASL.

We hope this program will be more than just an exercise in reciting the Pledge. We see it as an opportunity to encourage children and adults alike to use ASL as a bridge to communicate more effectively with the 1,000,000 Americans who are profoundly deaf and use ASL as their primary language. Such an approach can be life-changing for both our hearing and deaf communities. ***Please stay tuned!!***



State Regent's Special Project—Tell Her Story (HERstory for the Military Women's Memorial)

State Chair—Cynthia Kolsun

TELL HER STORY

We know our history, and we do much to preserve it; however, what have we done to preserve HERstory? Through the Military Women's Memorial, WV DAR chapters and individuals can do their part to make sure the military women's stories are kept for all to read as we Tell Her Story through the memorial's HERstory project.

The Military Women's Memorial (MWM) mission is to collect, preserve, and tell the stories of all women who have served our nation. Why is this important? It is important to honor and support our women veterans; show our gratitude and support; preserve history; and celebrate women's history.

HOW WE CAN HELP

First, DAR members can take the pledge to honor a woman veteran to tell her story. You can begin by signing up through the Military Woman's Memorial website at registration@womensmemorial.org. You may also sign up using the QR Code on the Memorial's page. It is very easy to do so. After you sign up, then you will receive the name of a woman who served, a copy of her obituary, and/or other documents and a link to a resource guide on how to tell and register her story in the National Register, including sample Register profiles to use as inspiration

Secondly, after registering you can register women who you may know or are aware of (including yourself) that served or are serving in the military. Any woman who is currently serving or has served in any of the following categories is eligible to register her story with the Military Women's Memorial

--All six branches of the U.S. Armed Forces—Active duty, Reserve, and National Guard

--Commissioned Corps of U.S. Public Health Service

--“We Also Served” categories which include those who served overseas during conflicts in direct support of the military in organizations such as:

--Commissioned Corps of the U. S. Public Health Service

--“Home Front Honorees such as AWWS, Ambulance Corps, WOWs, Red Cross, CD

--WWII Foreign Military Women who served with US forces

--US Public Health Service Cadet Nurse Corps

OUR GOALS

Year One--West Virginia DAR has set a goal of signing up or telling her story (HERstory) of 76 registered vets or stories told for the remainder of 2025. Please check with members of your chapter and get them registered if they served. Talk about this project at your local chapter meeting, place an article in the local paper, and make sure veterans' organizations are aware of this project. It should be doable to sign up 76 in honor of 1776 in the last four months of 2025.

Year Two—We will double our registrations/stories to 152 for the first two years of the administration.

Year Three—We have set a lofty goal of signing up or telling HERstory for 250 women veterans in honor of America 250 by the end of the State Regent's Administration.

Let's help our State Regent Sandra Isner-Johnson meet these goals. This project is such an important one, and it is supported by the National DAR Service for Veterans Committee. Work for this project can also be reported under the DAR Service for Veterans Committee. Additional information can be found under the Adopt-a-Veteran Project on the Military Women's Memorial Page and in the DAR National Information Packet (NIP) under DAR Service for Veterans Committee information, beginning on page 46.

If you have questions, please contact the WVDAR State Chair for the Regent's Special Project, Cynthia Kolsun at drkolsun@atlanticbb.net, 304-553-1012 or 605 Central Ave., Parsons, WV 26287. I would be willing to come to your local chapter meeting to provide information about this inspiring project.

Hello Sisters of WVDAR. My name is Pamela Bane, and I am the WV State Chair for Historic Preservation. My goal coming into this 2025-2028 term is to help our State Regent, Sandra Isner-Johnson. Her project for her term is the Shrine Entrance for the historic preservation. The following is a quick outline of her project.

Sandra Isner-Johnson: **Historic Preservation – “Shrine Entrance”**

This will be to help with the funding at the historic International Mother’s Day Shrine that will replace the cut stone of the front steps, add a ramp to make it ADA accessible AND replace the front doors that are way too heavy. Some of you are familiar with the Anna Jarvis home in Taylor County. This is different. This is the church. The Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church was the first observance of Mother’s Day on May 10, 1908, in Grafton. The church was then incorporated as the International Mother’s Day Shrine on May 15, 1962. Then in 1970 the Shrine was named a National Historic Place but on October 15, 1992, it was added to the National Historic Landmark Registry. In talking with the Shrine Committee, they have already approved to utilize the original architect’s 1964 rendering of the entrance.

Thrasher Engineering has provided a contractor’s review of the project and will issue a contractor’s estimate approved by the Shrine Committee and SHIPO (the State Historic Preservation Office).

The rough estimate of this project for the Shrine is \$150,000. I am hoping to reach \$20,000.

The WV Daughters will not be responsible for any of the creation or approval details. We will simply be helping to fund this project. We will also have people working on grants to provide additional funding. When completed, we hope to have a Dedication Ceremony inside the Sanctuary of the Shrine, complete the playing of the pipe organ.

I, too, have some ideas for fund raisers to help. I will be reaching out to our state chapters to help with our Regent's project. I am open to all ideas to help our regent reach her goal.

My email is pamelajbane25@gmail.com. My cell number is 304-813-3510. This is my first term as a State Chair and would love and welcome and help or feed back as I am learning my role. Thank you to every one of you and all that you do.

Blessings,

Pamela J Bane - WVDAR State Chair of Historic Preservation