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### VFW and Auxiliary 25th Anniversary of the Auxiliary

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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39-40  
Missoula  
Madam President, Comm. Comdr, Ladies of the Aux., Comrades of the V.F.W.,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be with you all tonight and I am extremely happy to have the honor of saying a few words to you tonight on the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Auxiliary.

I have always had a profound admiration and respect for the wives of the ex-service men. These service women, as an organization and as individuals, form the backbone of any and all groups such as ours. Without them we could not survive. With them we will advance and with us the country will prosper and forge ahead.

Comrades, we are indeed fortunate to live in a country such as ours. We can disagree with our neighbor in almost everything but we know we will wake up the next morning in our own beds and we know that we enjoy a freedom unsurpassed in other countries. That is what we call democracy and that is our heritage in this great country of ours. May we always cherish our liberties and be worthy of them.

Women, of course, constitute the foundation of any nation. You can realize, without my going into details, how important they are. Consider your own family and the answer will be apparent. But, as members of a great organization, they are additionally important and in this respect I wish to pay my respects to the ladies of the V.F.W. They have done a splendid job in mothering our organization, they have given us sustenance, and in our hours of need they have comforted us. Their advice has always been wise and their help always appreciated.

We, as member of the V.F.W. are extremely fortunate in having as comrades the ladies in the Auxiliary and we in Missoula are blessed above all others in having as our sister organization the Colonel Maxey Post of the V.F.W. When they do things they do them right royally. They

do not know the meaning of the term slacker, they are in the  
forefront of community affairs, and, as a group, their cooperation  
is always sought - and given - by and to the local post.

On this memorable occasion I wish to salute the ladies. May  
God bless them all. Thank you.