



Honoring PDP Joan Chwala (2011-2012)

Past Department President Joan Chwala will be the honored guest at the 2025 Department Convention at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Joan is a 44-year PUFL member of Unit 326 in Boyd, Chippewa County, District 10. She served as Department President from 2011-2012.

Joan's eligibility for membership is through the service of her father, Robert N. Morris, an Army medic who served in the Pacific Theater during WWII, of her husband, Earl T. Chwala, who also served in the Army during Vietnam, and her brother, Lorum "Lem" Morris also an Army veteran of the Vietnam Era.

Joan was an educator for 35 years, teaching children in grades K-8 in the Gilman School District. Following her retirement, she focused her energies on serving our veterans and their families through her volunteer activities. ALA Badger Girls State was blessed to have her serve as a county counselor for nine years and as the leader of the Americanism and Community Service interest groups. She shared her leadership skills by serving on various department and national ALA committees and in chairmanships. Joan was awarded the prestigious Toomey Award for her department history in 2008. While serving as department membership chairman in 2006-2007, she brought her "three ringed circus" to multiple membership round-ups around the state to encourage renewals and recruitment.



Joan's theme "Libraries of Love" stemmed from her love of reading and desire to ensure that veterans across the state would have access to reading materials that enriched their lives. The gifts she presented on behalf of the Department to each of the veteran's care facilities were quality reading materials including both books and periodicals.

Continuing her dedication to veterans, Joan served as a hospital deputy at the Chippewa Falls Veterans home for 7 years. The veterans living there recalled fondly their shopping trips with her.

Joan will be honored during the convention session on Friday, July 18th. Please plan to join in celebrating her years of service and share your memories of her year as Department President.