

**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S BIOGRAPHY**  
**ELEANOR "ELLIE" MELLO**  
**2018 / 2019**

Eleanor A Mello was born in Newport, Rhode Island to Arthur and Elizabeth Mello and is very proud of her Portuguese heritage. She had 1 sister and 2 brothers all of whom have gone to their heavenly home. A trip to the Azores, a Portugal island, reinforced and gave rich understanding to artifacts, food and words she knew as a child. In her formative years Ellie had a Roman Catholic education and graduated from St Catherine Academy in 1964. Today she is the Broker/ Owner of Compass Real Estate & Property Management, a career that spans more than 4 decades.

Ellie has 3 children. Twin boys: Keith and Brian, and 1 daughter Samantha. All three are life members of Auxiliary 2111. Ellie also has 5 grandchildren. Casey 6, Hayley 3, Caitlin 6, Candice 5 and Bexley who is no long with us.

In 1997 she joined VFW Auxiliary 2111 in District 1 under the eligibility of a former husband. She has worked all the core programs, filled all the chairs; was Auxiliary President twice and District President earning both Outstanding and All-State in her years as President. Ellie also brought home to California the coveted awards for "**Cancer Aid and Research**" and "**Veterans & Family Support**". Currently, she is the Auxiliary Treasurer and Secretary. Ellie was elected Department Guard at the 2013/14 Convention. Each year as she advanced through the chairs, travelling to all the Districts throughout California talking with Auxiliary members; the impression that echoed time and again was how much love in their hearts volunteers have for the work they do for our veterans ~ ***their veteran***. So, when Ellie asks you "**What's your Why**" tell her your story.

Ellie's theme is "**360° for our Veterans & Their Families**". Her symbol is the **Compass**, her colors are all shades of **purple** and her special project is **VFW National Home for Children**.