

Linda Carroll

By: Sara M. Malkowski

December 31st, 2019

<https://www.lyndhurstamericanlegion.com/sara-s-spotlight>



For December, I racked my brain on a good way to end this year's spotlight and then it hit me! The American Legion Post 139 Commanders! So this month we will have three spotlights, one for each of the organizations housed within our American Legion Family. You will see spotlights that highlight Linda Carroll, our American Legion Auxiliary President, Clint Colie, our SAL (Sons of the American Legion) Commander and Michael Fogio, our current commander of Post 139. As all three of these amazing people are extremely busy, I was lucky enough to be able to pin down Linda first and so she will be our first spotlight for December.

I sat down with Linda on Thursday December 5th, we were able to find some quiet time before the Lyndhurst Adult Services holiday party. As an auxiliary member myself, I've gotten to know Linda over these last few years and I was pleasantly surprised to learn some interesting information about her and maybe you will be too!

Linda was born on November 24th, making her a Sagittarius, in Jersey City, NJ but raised in Ridgefield Park, NJ. She currently resides in Lyndhurst, NJ with her husband of 34 years, Mike Carroll. Now this actually shocked me! I thought Linda was a Lyndhurst lifer but in actuality she's only been here since 1992!

Linda is not only an auxiliary member like myself, however, she is currently the President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 139. The super short explanation, to be an auxiliary member, one must have a family member who has served (or is currently serving) in the armed forces. So when you hear some of Linda's family history, you'll clearly see that Linda comes from a military family and was destined to be a part of this organization.

Linda has family who has served in different branches of our armed forces. When looking at her mother's side of the family, her grandfather was in the Army while serving in World War II, while her uncle served his time there in the Navy. During the Vietnam War, both her brother and husband served, however, her brother served in the Army while her husband Mike served in the Marines. In addition, Linda has had various other family members serve in our armed forces. I would definitely have to agree that Linda comes from a strong military family.

Speaking of family, as I previously mentioned Linda has been married to Mike for 34 years and has 1 daughter and 2 granddaughters. I know that Linda must be happy to have 2 grandbabies now that she's retired. Before Linda worked over 31 years in the accounting field, she attended MSU junior college and completed a little over 2 years studying economics. It definitely looks like she put that schooling to work! And not just in her career but within the American Legion organization!

While she is the current president of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 139, Linda has held positions on both the county and state levels. Linda served as the American Legion Auxiliary County President for two terms in 2000-2001 & 2001-2002. She has also served as the American Legion Auxiliary State President from 2010-2011. Something interesting that Linda shared that I found fascinating was that our auxiliary unit was also one of the first chapters to be established just like our post was one of the first chapters to be established after Congress chartered and incorporated the American Legion in 1919. In fact, she has minutes from meetings of ALA unit 139 dating all the back to the 1920's! How cool is that! Such a great piece of American history, right here in Lyndhurst!

I have to admit, I'm still in shock that Linda isn't a born and raised Lyndhurst resident! She fits in so perfectly! I'm guessing she learned a thing or two from Mike! You know what else shocked me?! Linda has trained and worked as a beautician! She worked for a while in the hair industry before attending junior college and jumping into the world of economics and accounting! Maybe if you're nice to her, she'll do your hair for ya!

I'm sure you've noticed by now I like to end these interviews on a more fun and personal note and because I'm always curious to hear the answer to this question. I asked Linda if she had the chance to go to lunch with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be and why? I never would have predicted her response! Her dream lunch date would be....Goldie Hawn! Yes, you read that right, Goldie Hawn! I asked Linda to explain a little about why she picked her. Linda explains that she has always loved her as an actress. She said " I feel that Goldie Hawn was able to work as a successful actress while at the same time keep to her morals and raise a family. And it's clear she's done a good job and it appears she's close to her children. So I'd love to pick her brain and see how she was able to accomplish such a feat and how that experience has shaped

her as a person.” After hearing Linda’s response, I’m quite curious myself! I’m also curious to see what kind of advice Linda is going to give us. It wouldn’t be a spotlight if I didn’t end with this last question. Linda responded “I have two pieces of advice to share. The first is to get your degree or training certificate. It’s just a piece of paper but today they mean a lot more than they used to back in the day. And the second is to keep an open mind. Times they are a changing and you have to keep up with them to survive. You don’t have to change yourself or your morals but you have to keep an open mind to others and how the world is changing to survive in it.

I don’t think better words could have been said. Thank you Linda for taking the time to sit and chat with me. And thank you for all that you do for not only our post but for the American Legion organization as a whole.