

 **American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Arizona**

Chaplain's Message – April 2026 “Happy Easter”

April often arrives as a gentle reminder that renewal is possible even after long seasons of waiting. The world around us begins to bloom again, and not all at once, but steadily – one bud, one sunrise, and one warm breeze at a time. It's a rhythm that mirrors our own lives. Growth rarely happens in dramatic leaps; more often, it unfolds quietly, in small choices, small acts of courage, and small moments of grace.

This month, I invite you to notice the signs of renewal in your own life. Where are you healing? Where are you learning? Where are you being invited to begin again? Even if the steps feel small, they matter. Renewal is not about perfection; it is about movement.

As we move through April, may you find space to breathe deeply, to reconnect with what grounds you, and to trust that the new beginnings are not only possible – they are already taking shape. May hope take root in you the way spring takes root in the earth: gently, persistently, and with quiet strength.

Reflection for the month:

April also gives us space to reflect on the strength and sacrifice of our military and veterans. Many of them know firsthand what it means to endure long seasons – seasons of uncertainty, separation and challenge. Their service has shaped not only our nation's history but the daily freedoms we often take for granted. And yet, the journey after service can require just as much courage as the years spent in uniform.

To our veterans: your resilience is not invisible. Your stories-both spoken and unspoken – carry weight and wisdom. Renewal may look different for each of them, and it may unfold slowly, and they deserve the same gentleness and patience that spring offers the world. May this season remind you that healing is not weakness, and seeking support is a sign of strength, not struggle.

As April unfolds, may all of us – veterans, families, caregivers and our members – find space to breathe deeply, reconnect with what grounds us, and trust that new beginnings are possible. Hope doesn't always arrive in dramatic ways. Sometimes it comes like spring” quietly, persistently, and with strength that surprises us.

NOTE: Don't forget your annual chaplain report and award narratives are due to me by May 1st. AzDeptChaplain@gmail.com or 480 S Calvary Way, Cottonwood Az 86326

In service and faith,

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Department Chaplain

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