



Submitted by National Chairman: Norma Tramm

Most important, all award entries must be submitted via the **electronic form** by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

All award submissions must use:

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

Award submissions become the property of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. Through submission of reports and award entries, the submitter grants nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the materials submitted and agrees to have their names and submission published for ALA use or commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

- Photos should be in a high-resolution format (at least 300 DPI) or sent using the high-resolution option on your smartphone. When emailing the photo, select “actual size” for attaching to the email.
- When possible, include photos of actual events

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program (per division)

- Share everything you did to support the National Security mission this year.
- Provide details/examples about the activity. Be sure to include specific information such as who is pictured and the members/volunteers that assisted in the activity or activities.
- How did you promote the American Legion Auxiliary’s Salute to Servicemember Award or the Warrior Wednesday submission?
- Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given, so please be sure to complete the electronic form in its entirety.

Department Award: Dorothy Pearl Best Department National Security Award (per division)

GREAT NEWS – Department Chairs you can submit the department award for National Security and if you do this on or before May 15, 2026, it will also count as your year-end report. One and done!!

What to include in your Award submission and/ or year-end report.

Department chairs’ reports share the positive impact of our mission! They help us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Just three simple steps are needed to add your part to our national success story:

1. Department reports are limited to 1,000 words.
2. Provide details/examples about the activity. Be sure to include specific information such as unit name and number.
3. Submit your department chair report to your division and national chair with photos by email by May 15.
4. Photos of actual events.
 - The request for photos is important for our national chairs to highlight members serving our mission.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- How have you supported military service members and/or their families?
- How have you collaborated with other like-minded organizations (ASYMCA, Blue Star Families, Quilts of Valor, USO, etc.) that also support servicemembers and their families?
- How have you raised awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel?
- How have you supported those families whose servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice?
- What CERT training has your department accomplished this year?
- What did you do to promote the American Legion Auxiliary’s Salute to Servicemember Award?

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given, so please be sure to complete the electronic form in its entirety.

Salute to Servicemembers Award

National Vice Chair Jammie Phillips oversees this award and has information shared in this newsletter. Don’t wait to apply, do this now!!

#RED FRIDAY

Submitted by Pam Seelye, Western Division Chair

Have you ever walked into an event or a gathering and seen a room filled with people wearing red? Did it make you take a second look, and did it fill you with pride to know that all that red is in honor of our military?

Remember Everyone Deployed (also known as **RED** or **Red Friday**) is a concept of honoring United States military service members currently deployed. The term describes civilian and military families' efforts to show their support for those deployed.

But have you wondered how this movement of wearing Red on Friday came about?

It isn't easy to pin down the beginning of RED Friday.

There are different accounts of how the tradition of wearing red on Fridays began. One story suggests that an email was circulated urging people to wear an article of red clothing on Fridays and to share the email with friends and family. Others believe that Canadians started this RED Friday tradition to show their support for soldiers. Regardless of its origins, this tradition was embraced by people in the United States, who continue to promote it even today.

Anyone can be a part of RED Friday. Wear a red T-shirt, tie, scarf, or barrette. Anything red will show your support. You can also purchase RED Friday shirts at The American Legion Flag and Emblem Sales <https://emblem.legion.org/>

Remember, you can encourage others to participate in the tradition of wearing red to show support for our troops. RED Friday is for everyone. You don't need to have a military connection or be part of the military community; you just need to be a proud American who wants to support those defending our country. Wearing red serves as a personal visual statement, expressing solidarity with those serving both at home and overseas and reminding them that they are not forgotten. It also reassures families that their loved ones are remembered by all of us.

Every Friday, proudly put on your RED to remember our military personnel and their commitment to each of us and our country.

References: redfridays.org, Wikipedia

American Legion Auxiliary Salute to Servicemembers Award

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>

The American Legion Auxiliary has officially opened nominations for the **2026 ALA Salute to Servicemembers Award**, an annual honor presented at National Convention to recognize up to seven outstanding servicemembers — one from each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve. The award highlights individuals who stand out among their peers and make meaningful contributions both in and beyond their military careers.

Any ALA member, Unit, or Department may submit a nomination, allowing nominators to tell the story of why their chosen servicemember exemplifies exceptional service and community impact. Requirements are intentionally simple — a narrative of up to 1,000 words, a photo (preferably an official DoD image), and an endorsement from the nominee's command group.

Nominations are open now through **June 1, 2026**, and the online form is currently live. This award reflects the ALA's mission of honoring those who serve and strengthening communities through recognition, advocacy, and service. If your newsletter readers know a servicemember who goes above and beyond, this is their chance to help shine a spotlight on that dedication.

For more information, visit the ALA National Security Facebook Page and review the file Salute to Servicemember Informational Handout, or reach out to any of your National Security Committee members.

Armed Services YMCA

Submitted by Jane McKnight - Southern Division Chair

Did you know that there is an ASYMCA? This stands for the Armed Services YMCA. The organization's mission is to enhance the lives of military members and their families in spirit and mind through their programs relevant to the unique challenges of military life. The USYMCA operates programs and services to lighten the burden of military families and single service members who are currently serving, and emphasizes junior enlisted personnel. They work with installation leaders to ensure a network of support for military families at 95 installations across the country.

This collaboration allows the organization to identify and address gaps in services that pose a hardship to service members and their families, which can negatively affect mission readiness. From Child & Youth programs, Assistance & Support Programs, and Recognition and Appreciation Programs, the ASYMCA has our heroes six!

For more information and resources: <http://www.asymca.org/>