



“Angels in the Outfield, Caring for others”

April 2026,

Department dues will be going up for the 2027 Membership Year! At last year’s convention a dues increase for department was passed. Units will be sending in \$30.00 to cover Department and National dues. PLEASE, talk to your members and make sure your unit charges enough to cover this and the unit portion. **Dues forms are on the website and must be returned to department HQ by May 5th. Late forms will be charged \$30 if changes are to be made.**

Department Convention June 25th – 28th in Chandler. We will be holding the ALA convention at the Chandler Community Center again this year. Please bring a cushion as the chairs are hard. The link for hotel rooms at the San Marcos will hopefully be available on the 15th of April. Once the San Marcos is sold out, then the link for the Hilton Garden Inn will be available. **PLEASE NOTE, 30 days before convention, the San Marcos will charge your credit card on file one night room rate plus taxes and fees. This is to reduce the number of cancelled rooms at the last minute. The Legion has to pay for empty rooms when posts/units call for a block of rooms and then cancel some of them right before convention.**

ALAMIS billing has been sent out. Please send your payment as soon as possible. If you make changes to anyone on ALAMIS those billed MUST BE PAID and then payment for any changes. National DOES NOT PRORATE and neither do we.

Don’t hold on to membership, please send in weekly.

Department NO LONGER HOLDS MEMBERSHIP CREDITS!!! ONLINE AND OVER/UNDERPAYMENTS ARE REIMBURSED MONTHLY. DO NOT WRITE USE CREDIT ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU SEND IT IN. If the check, we send you is not

cashed within 90 days of issuance the bank automatically voids it and you WILL NOT BE ISSUED ANOTHER ONE!

If you have changed your Unit Mailing address, we need to know the new one. We are getting a lot of undeliverable mail back from the USPS saying undeliverable mail or unknown resident.

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT: President Dolores's project this year is **Caregivers and Hospice**. Dawn Davidson from Unit 45 is the PSP Chairman. You can reach her at, aladawndavidson@gmail.com, if you want her to visit your Unit or District, or to get more information.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is everyone's job. 2026 membership renewals, re-joins and new members can be sent to the Department.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP BY PHONE: Call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570 with your member ID and debit or credit card ready

MANDATES: The 2025-2026 mandates are on the website. Please pay your mandates sooner than later. There were several Units who did not pay their mandates 30 days before the Department Convention; therefore, they lost their voting rights at Convention. If you have any questions regarding Mandates, contact the Department Office.

2026 DIRECTORY: Is on the Department website: www.aladdeptaz.org. If your Units information is blank, that means we did not receive your new officer information. Please email us with the information and we will get you entered.

POPPY: We need units to start making poppies for Department.

The Office is open, and we are here to help. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4p.m. Evenings by appointment. (please don't be afraid to ask).

Rose Ficklin
Department Secretary/Treasurer

Rae Hopf
Department Membership Processor

Secretary1@aladdeptaz.org

membership@aladdeptaz.org

PLEASE REMEMBER !!!!!

No one representing the American Legion Auxiliary will ever send an email or text asking you for money or to purchase gift cards for them because they are busy or "in meetings".

PLEASE ALWAYS DELETE THEM AND IGNORE ANY SUCH REQUEST !!!!!

A Unit has fallen for a gift card scam, PLEASE let your members know to be diligent!



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National President Pam Ray: will be visiting Arizona March 12-16, 2026. We are working on activities. There will be a dinner in her honor at Post 109 Saturday, March 14th, 2026. No Host bar at 5pm, Dinner 6pm. We will be in Southern Arizona for those four (4) days. She will be attending the district 2 meeting at Post 68 on Sunday March 15th.

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Secretary1@aladep taz.org

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2026-2027 Unit Officers

Please complete and return this form to the Department Office immediately following the election of Unit Officers for **2026-2027**. Please complete this form even if your slate of officers will not change for the upcoming administrative year. Verify email addresses and phone numbers before submitting this form.

Return this form to the Department Office (address-above) no later than June 1, 2026

Unit Town:

Unit #:

Unit Name:

District:

Time and Date of Unit Meetings:

Date Unit Officers will take office:

Please provide a complete mailing address for each unit officer.

Unit President:

Address:

City: St: Zip Code + 4

Email: Ph: Cell:

Unit Vice President:

Address:

City: St: Zip Code +4

Email: Ph: Cell:

Unit Secretary:

Address:

City: St: Zip Code + 4

Email: Ph: Cell:

Unit Treasurer:

Address:

City: St: Zip Code + 4

Email: Ph: Cell:

Girls State Chairman:

Address:

City: St: Zip Code +4

Email: Ph: Cell:

Membership Chairman:

Address:

City: St: Zip Code +4

Email: Ph: Cell:

Unit Email Contact: Please provide the email address of one person to serve as a **Unit Email Contact**. This person does not need to be the Unit President. This email address will be used to distribute time-sensitive information quickly.

Unit Email Contact:

Email:

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Arizona

SUBJECT: Names and addresses of elected 2026-2027 District Officers

NOTE: Since this mailing will be sent to the OUT-GOING OFFICERS, it is THEIR responsibility to send the requested information to the Department Office. Even if you are REPEATING an office, *it is necessary to complete and send this form to the Department Office.*

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

DISTRICT NUMBER _____

DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS _____

MEETING DAY _____ **TIME** _____

PRESIDENT: _____ **ID#** _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

VICE PRESIDENT: _____ **ID#** _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

SECRETARY: _____ **ID#** _____

Phone # _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

TREASURER: _____ **ID#** _____

Phone# _____ Publish Yes No

E-Mail _____ Publish Yes No

Please complete and return this form. We must have this information to prepare the Department Directory and to notify National. **Form must be into Department no later than JUNE 1, 2026.**

Mail form to: American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of AZ, 4701 N. 19th Ave., Ste 100, Phoenix, AZ 85015

You can email this form to secretary1@aladepaz.org.

TIDBITS FROM THE WEBSITE MANAGER

--The Orientation Schedule for Girls State is being developed. See complete listing elsewhere in this packet. MAKE SURE YOU CONTACT THE GIRLS YOUR UNIT IS SPONSORING AND INVITE THEM TO AN ORIENTATION. THE GIRLS WHO GO TO AN ORIENTATION ARE MUCH BETTER PREPARED FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE PROGRAM.

TELL THEM YOUR UNIT NUMBER ONCE MORE AS THEIR SPONSOR.

THEY CAN ATTEND ANY ORIENTATION—EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT THERE. DON'T TELL THEM THEY ONLY HAVE ONE CHOICE. DEB MUNCHBACH ALWAYS TRIES TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS RECOGNIZED.

--Unit 78

Remove email listed under Cheryl Myers, President, as it is incorrect. No replacement provided.

--Unit 95

Correct email of President Rosanna Ruiz to donyacookie@yahoo.com



--I have started uploading proposed Resolutions for Convention to the website under Member Resources Tab #15.

Review them NOW, and send any comments or questions to Deb Munchbach at munchaz@msn.com Waiting to bring your suggestions to the pre-Convention meetings does not give your ideas the time and consideration they deserve. So PREPARE ! Ask someone in your Unit who understands computers to print a copy for you.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF
ARIZONA CONVENTION JUNE 25-28, 2026
RESOLUTION**

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SUBJECT: _____

DATE: _____

Resolution No. _____
(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

**DO NOT TRY TO SQUEEZE THE RESOLUTION INTO THIS SPACE. PLEASE ATTACH TEXT OF
RESOLUTION AS A SEPARATE PAGE**

Routing: _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

Convention Action: Approved _____ Rejected _____ Date _____

One "hard" copy, signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates, and an unsigned "soft or electronic" copy of all resolutions are to be forwarded to the Department Secretary before Convention if possible. Resolutions originating at Convention need to be written as a "hard" copy with two delegate signatures, and a "soft or electronic" copy forwarded to the Department Secretary as soon as possible so that discussion and vote may take place. (2013) Resolutions presented by the vote of a unit need to be signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates from the Unit and forwarded to the Department Secretary thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention for registration and classification and issuing to respective committees. A resolution which has not been presented through the proper channels will not be considered.

April is National Children and Youth Month, Month of the Military Child, Purple Up!Day, and Kids of Deployed Are Heroes 2 (KDH2).



A purple-themed poster for Purple Up! Day. At the top, a large purple star is centered. Below it, a yellow megaphone icon is on the left, and two American flags are on the right. The main title "Show Your Support!" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below the title, a dark purple banner contains the text "Encourage your social media followers to:". Underneath this banner is a list of five activities, each with an icon and a dotted line for a description: a camera icon for "Wear purple & post a photo", a dog tag icon for "Tag a military child", a speech bubble icon for "Share a thank-you message", a schoolhouse icon for "Participate in school events", and an envelope icon for "Write a letter to a military family". At the bottom, a dark purple banner says "Purple Up!". Below this banner, there are illustrations of a pair of dog tags, a boy in a military uniform, and a girl in a purple shirt holding a small American flag. A string of American flag bunting runs across the bottom of the poster.

Show Your Support!

Encourage your social media followers to:

-  Wear purple & post a photo
-  Tag a military child
-  Share a thank-you message
-  Participate in school events
-  Write a letter to a military family

Purple Up!



Preparing for Month of the Military Child

Posted On: Friday, 06 March 2026

Guest blog post by National Children & Youth Committee Chair Melanie Taylor

In 1938, The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary began a cooperative venture to celebrate the nation's children and youth, establishing April as Child Welfare Month. Currently, the American Legion Auxiliary recognizes April as Children & Youth Month, as well as the Month of the Military Child.

Our military kids suffer when a parent is deployed or on an extended temporary duty (TDY). They don't understand why their parent is not there to celebrate their birthday or attend their sports games and miss those important holidays.

Auxiliary members are encouraged to recognize and celebrate these special military children year-round, but especially in April.

There are many ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child. This year, Wednesday, April 15, 2026, has been designated as Purple Up! Day. Auxiliary members and their Juniors are encouraged to wear purple clothing and share the ALA's commitment to support those military kids and their families.

Purple symbolizes all combined colors of the five branches of the military – Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, Air Force blue, and Coast Guard blue.

Ask your community businesses to recognize the military child with a Purple Up! display. Contact your city council and ask them to read a declaration recognizing April 15, 2026, as National Purple Up! Day. Contact your local newspaper, radio station, or news station and share with them the importance of the Month of the Military Child, and ask if they will include a segment recognizing these military children.

Unit members can contact their local schools and ask if they can honor the military kids by providing breakfast or lunch, while wearing their purple branded attire.

A dinner can be planned at your local American Legion post, inviting military families, as well as guests. Involve your Junior Auxiliary members and young Sons of The American Legion members in the presentation of the Military Child Table Setting Ceremony. It is a very powerful presentation that even your Legionnaires probably haven't seen.

Be sure to take plenty of photos of yourself and others wearing purple, and include the special events you have planned. Post these events on your social media with the who, what, where, and when information.

Don't let April slip by without recognizing our military kids.

ALA Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.



Children & Youth Month

Month of the Military Child



#momc
#PurpleUp

April
15th



Children & Youth



It's Spring!

Spring is the time of new beginnings and renewal! Now is a good time for reminders about some of the core programs in Children and Youth.

Giving awards to deserving members of your community is one of the core programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. There are two awards that are available: the **Youth Hero Award** and the **Good Deed Award**.

Looking Forward! April is a big month for us in Children and Youth. What do we have to look forward to?

It's **National Children and Youth Month, Month of the Military Child, Purple Up! Day, and Kids of Deployed Are Heroes 2 (KDH2)**.

Wow! That's so much to talk about, and we need to work the programs we have now to prepare for a great April. This is the season where we have programs to make a difference in your communities.

The Month of the Military Child started in 1986. It is a nationwide initiative to recognize the special sacrifices that children of serving military members go through, such as moving frequently or missing a parent for extended times during deployment.

Who thinks April 15th is tax day? Well, it is. More importantly, it's **Purple Up Day!** Purple represents the combined colors associated with all branches of the U.S. Military (Army = green, Navy = blue, etc.). We encourage people in our communities to wear purple to honor the approximately 1.6 million children in serving military families.

April is also the time when the ALA can recognize children of deployed parent(s) with KDH2 buttons and stickers. You can visit your local base and schools near bases and work with community leaders to make children feel special and let them know they are special. They are indeed heroes too.

Please spend some time talking to Units and make sure these resources are available to them. Let them know that we have ways to help families beyond doing fundraising at a post once a year for a "sub-for-santa" or similar projects.

We have special, time-honored traditions in the American Legion Auxiliary. We can make children and youth feel special by recognizing them for their heroic deeds, their inspired service in our communities, and the special sacrifices that military families make.

I look forward to hearing about the successes you are having throughout our region.

Thanks again for all that you do!

Mike Rasmuson
Children and Youth, Western Division Chair
utahalamike@gmail.com



Youth Hero Award

Award winners receive a medal and a certificate. Youth Hero Awards reward and recognize children and youth in our communities that have done the following:

- Demonstrates an act of physical valor.
- Served as an inspirational role model for the organization and the community.

Examples: Performing the Heimlich Maneuver, rescuing someone from drowning, getting help and assisting first responders in dire situations, etc.

Applicants do **NOT** have to be a member of the American Legion Family. They must be nominated by an Auxiliary Member.

Good Deed Award

Award winners receive a certificate from the National organization. This award recognizes individuals that have done the following:

- Demonstrates leadership serving the community by planning, organizing, and executing a service project for Veterans, serving military and/or their families.
- Nominations are submitted by members and their local ALA units.

Examples: Planning and preparing a Veteran's Day dinner, arranging that instead of receiving birthday gifts for themselves they give to a Veteran-oriented charity, sending care packages to serving military members, etc.

Applicants do **NOT** have to be a member of the American Legion Family. They must be nominated by an Auxiliary Member.

You can follow this link to nominate a member of your community:

https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/youth_hero_good_deed_award_nomination

If someone you nominate does not receive an award from our National organization, you can still recognize them with a certificate from your Department, District, or Unit.

This can also be an activity that attracts new members to the Juniors or young Sons in the American Legion Family.



YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Unit members are the heart of every Children and Youth program. The difference is not made at the national level alone, it is made in communities, in schools, at local bases, and inside our Units. When members take time to nominate a young hero, recognize a child of a deployed parent, wear purple on April 15, or present a simple certificate of appreciation, they send a powerful message that someone sees and values these young people.

Every phone call to a school, every conversation with a military family, every award presented at a meeting strengthens our mission. Small actions by Unit members create lasting impact for children and youth who may never forget that the American Legion Auxiliary stood beside them.

You do not need a large budget to make a difference. You need awareness, initiative, and heart. When Units work these programs intentionally, we do more than check a box, we build community, honor sacrifice, and inspire the next generation.

Education

April 2026

Congratulations! In the eight years I've held this chairmanship, for the first time we have applicants for all four National Scholarships! Nice job every one!

The time to submit your reports and narratives for the Department awards is quickly approaching! There are two awards for Education: The **Jean Batley Plaque** for Units of membership 150 or under and the **Chrysteen Fritzing** **Plaque** for Units of membership 151 or higher.

The rules are the same for both awards:

- Any Unit in the Department of Arizona may receive these awards in the appropriate membership category.
- Judging will be based on actual participation in Scholarships, both Loan and Gift, educational programs in both high school and grammar schools, and extra activity done.
- Unit Education reports must be into the Department Education Chairman on or before the deadline date for reports or date designated by the Department Chairman (May 1st).
- A narrative report of the work accomplished in this program must be included with the report to be eligible for these awards. The narrative must be typewritten, not to exceed 1,000 words. (Refer to the Department Awards Rules and Regulations manual <https://aladepaz.org/13-dep-awards-%2Fnarratives> for further details on writing the narrative.)

The Education Year-End report form is available on the Department website [6 25-26 education.pdf](#). **The report forms and narratives are due to this Chairman by May 1st.**

I look forward to hearing how your Units promote the Auxiliary education programs throughout the school year.

In the Spirit of Service, not for self,
For Veterans, God and Country,

Julie Vietri

Education Chairman
Department of Arizona

jvietri@msn.com

480-495-1558

Finance

March 2026
REVISED 3/5/26

The clock is ticking Arizona, and the following 18 Units have not paid their mandates and the amounts owed are also listed as follows:

Unit 1	\$81.10	Unit 37	\$34.30	Unit 84	\$46.70
Unit 9	\$138.30	Unit 44	\$256.70	Unit 88	\$36.70
Unit 19	\$149.10	Unit 46	\$59.90	Unit 125	\$17.10
Unit 22	\$120.70	Unit 52	\$155.90	Unit 133	\$23.50
Unit 24	\$349.50	Unit 66	\$707.90	Unit 140	\$17.50
Unit 30	\$78.30	Unit 69	\$95.10	Unit 141	\$21.50

Per Constitution and ByLaws, Article VIII

Section 3 –"Units not having their current District, Department and National Mandates paid thirty days prior to Department Convention shall not be entitled to vote."

Department Constitution and ByLaws, Standing Rule 11, Page 15 - "All Units failing to turn into Department per capita tax, dues, etc., shall be given a period of thirty days from the close of Convention before Charter, monies and material may be confiscated, provided the Executive Committee has approved such action."

30 Days prior to Convention is May 25, 2026

Please make arrangements to pay before the deadline. Thank you.

Yolanda Bonilla, Chairman, 602-989-3321, yodobo@msn.com

Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, ahhpenny@aol.com

Barbara White, 602-908-2980, barbara.white99gmail.com

Members by Virtue of Office: Stacey Mayberry, President, NEC, Rose Ficklin, Sec/Tres. (no vote)

Convention is just around the corner with much to do:

- 1. Fill out the Year End Finance Report which is due May 1, 2026 to this Chairman. Please email or send via USPS.**
- 2. Start working on your 2026-2027 budget. Review your program expenses, general expenses, expected income to set up a workable budget. A Budget Committee is a useful tool to finalize a Budget for next year.**
- 3. Set up an Audit Committee, and get your treasurer there as a source for answering questions. Complete the Audit.**

Are you a new Unit?

- Sign on to IRS.gov, go to the charities and non-profits section and click on requests for an EIN.**
- Once your EIN is assigned you need to send an Inclusion letter to the National organization. ALA National will send you this all important letter. Please keep a copy for your files.**
- Then go to ACC.gov and register.**

Yolanda Bonilla, Chairman, 602-989-3321, yodobo@msn.com

Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, ahhpenny@aol.com

Barbara White, 602-908-2980, barbara.white99gmail.com

**Members by Virtue of Office: Dolores Chavez, President, NEC
Stacey Mayberry, Rose Ficklin, Sec/Tres. (no vote)**

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF GIRLS STATE ORIENTATIONS 2026

Scheduling of state-wide Orientations has begun. WARNING: This schedule is not yet set in stone--so check it often. It will be updated as information is received.

DISTRICT 1

Yuma Area Schools sponsored by Unit 19

PENDING

Contact Karissa Allen Unit 19 President

480-577-7494 tripamomma@gmail.com

-OR-

Yuma Area Schools sponsored by Units 56 and 46

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

time and location PENDING

Contact Barbara Whitney 602-326-2484 barbaraw527@icloud.com

DISTRICT 2

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 11:00 AM

Tucson Schools...Sahuarita...Oro Valley...Marana...Vail

American Legion Post 36

5845 E. 22nd St.

Tucson, AZ 85711

Contact Jennifer Turner-Jones 520-475-9662 al36family@gmail.com

DISTRICT 3

Cochise County...Benson...Douglas...Tombstone...Sierra Vista

PENDING

Contact Dolores Chavez 928-386-0841 cheebeejs@cox.net

-OR- Maggie Montijo 520-904-1814 maggiemontijo@gmail.com

DISTRICT 4

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 3:00 PM

Coolidge...Florence...Casa Grande...San Tan Valley...Queen Creek...Maricopa...Blackwater

American Legion Post 54

408 N. Main

Coolidge, AZ 85128

Contact Becky Ruiz 520-723-7557 b13ruiz13@gmail.com

DISTRICT 5

Safford...Willcox...Morenci

SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2026, 2:00 PM

American Legion Post 32

531 - 11th Ave.

Safford, AZ 85546

Contact Kat Sticklin 928-322-1550 katsticklin2025@gmail.com

-OR-

Globe...Miami...San Carlos

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1:00 PM

American Legion Post 4

645 S. Broad St.

Globe, AZ 85501

Contact Patty Nolan 928-812-3027 thenolans127@hotmail.com

DISTRICT 6

Show Low...Blue Ridge...Holbrook...Snowflake...Overgaard

Contact Robyn Hansen 602-999-3486 robyn.hansen@jrhie.com

OR Martha Raether 602-809-0972 orbitzbk@gmail.com

DISTRICT 7

Kingman Area

NO ORIENTATION SCHEDULED

DISTRICT 8

Prescott...Prescott Valley...Bagdad...Sedona...Mayer

PENDING

Contact Lisa Young-Tinnin District 8 President

928-593-9170 lisadistrict8@gmail.com

DISTRICT 11

SATURDAY MAY 16, 2026

presentation begins at 1:00 pm

Phoenix West Valley...Peoria...Buckeye...Tolleson...Sunnyslope...Dysart...Willow Canyon

North West Schools...Surrounding Areas

American Legion Post 62

9847 W. Desert Cove Ave.

Peoria, AZ 85345

Contact Nicki Cruz 602-292-0960 noreennickerson@cox.net

DISTRICT 12

SUNDAY MAY 3, 2026

sign-in Noon to 12:30 pm, presentation begins at 12:30 pm

Phoenix East Valley...Apache Junction...Fountain Hills...Chandler...Mesa...Gilbert...Tempe

Scottsdale...North East Schools...Surrounding Areas

American Legion Post 27

1018 S. Meridian Rd.

Apache Junction, AZ 85220

Contact Cindy Queen 602-316-7647 cynqueen53@cox.net

Historian Report April 2026
By Stephanie McMullen – AZ Department Historian

ARE YOU READY?
HISTORY REPORTS ARE DUE MAY 1, 2026
HISTORY BOOK – Convention June 26 – 28, 2026

Year End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the Department, and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met.

History Awards are as follows:

Units History Awards

Helen Blakeslee to units with membership of 150 and under.
Betty Kent Plaque to units with membership of 151 and over.

Districts History Awards

The Rasmussen District History Plaque

Junior History Award

Connie Erickson Middlebrook Plaque – Junior History

You will find the History Annual Report Form on the website, along with the History Awards criteria. Let's make History 2025-2026.

We just concluded a great week with National President Pam Ray's visit. If she and Department President Dolores visited your Unit or District, please include it in your minutes.

I want YOU
in the Department History
Be sure to post on Ring Your Bell
And send me your meeting minutes!

Stephanie McMullen
AZ Department Historian
historianaladepaz@gmail.com
(623) 910-4716

American Legion Auxiliary

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

April, 2026

Greetings to all as we continue our work to assist our Veterans and our Communities. Has your Unit selected a Member of the Year? Or perhaps a Vickey Zwall Mentor of the Year? I believe a good leader should continually encourage and thank their members for EVERYTHING that they do. This is IMPORTANT! It is also important to start thinking about your unit reports as well as the awards. Award forms/report forms are on the Department website aladeptaz.org. Please let us know if there is a problem finding any of this information.

ALA Academy is a user-friendly online training platform that offers new learning opportunities for all members. They are free, educational and help provide a deeper understanding of the organization. They have two options: 1) self-paced courses you can take any time from any device, and 2) live, virtual webinars – courses that you will need to register in advance. Check with the national website alaforveterans.org and media sites for most up to date registration information. And as the last step, report courses you have taken to me for our year-end report.

There is still time to schedule a Mission Training. Just remember the rule of 10, minimum 10 members registered, \$10 fee and all sent to department headquarters 10 days prior to the training. We hope to hear from you!

Karen Smith, Chairman (520) 249-1119 (text)

ksmith111@cox.net

March 6, 2026

Hi All:

Here in Arizona, this past week was a bit quiet except for this **monumental news:**

District 5 has joined the “over 85% team by March 15th “ crew! Unit 4 in Globe jumped 7 percentage points, Unit 28 Clifton jumped an amazing 14 points and Unit 32 in Safford jumped 11 percentage points and went over the 100% mark to be at 104.60% of goal!! [Congratulations](#) District 5 on a great, great week.

I’m so excited! 9 of 10 Districts have made the 85% goal! I know everyone is pulling for District 4— they have made such great strides and need 40 more to get to 85%. GO DISTRICT FOUR!

District 11 and 7 hold their respective 1st and 2nd places with 94.03% and 93.24%. Pretty tight race and climbing to 100%!

Districts 3 and 6 are basically tied for 3rd place with 91.18% and 91.13%, respectively.

Districts 12 and 1 are also basically tied for 4th place at 90.59% and 90.54%, respectively.

Districts 2 and 8 are climbing close to the 90’s—keep working on it!!!

At the National level, Arizona is holding 3rd place and the gap with Florida is closing. Just last week we were 3 percentage points behind Florida.... And this week, we are just over 2 percentage points behind. Speaking of behind.... Let’s kick some (lol)!

Have a great weekend and keep up the great work. You all have a lot to be proud of!

Marge

Marge Christianson
VP/Membership Chair
Dept of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary
(763) 234-9852 Call or text

March 13, 2026

Greetings and Highlights for Friday the 13th:

- Department Unit 100 has reached over 100%-- that's good news and the sad news! Great that we have new members—but sad that these members are not associated with a Unit. If you are interested in getting a list of members that are in your general area, contact Department!
- District 11 remains in first at 96.53%. Unit 5 in Phoenix has become part of the 100% club!
- District 7 is in second at 93.69%. They have 4 Units over 100%.
- Districts 12, 6 and 3 are in a virtual tie for 3rd (91.58%; 91.55% and 91.30% respectively).
- In District 1, Unit 113 in Quartzsite has officially entered the race!
- Districts 1, 2, 5 and 8 are also close to a tie! 90.30%, 89.97%, 89.20%, 89.09%.
- District 4 remains just above 75%.....

Nearly every District has met the 85% by March 15 challenge. That means I owe every Unit and District membership chair in those Districts a Bling Poppy. I'm ready!!! District Presidents or District Membership Chairs: Please let me know how you'd like to receive your poppy pins. If you'd like me to come to a meeting and present them—awesome-- let's see if we can work that out! If you prefer, I can mail them to you so you can distribute them at a meeting-- that works too.

Thank you for your continued efforts to engage our members—that really is the key to growing our organization! The more members we have, the more resources we can put toward our mission. You ARE making a difference!!!

Marge

***Marge Christianson
VP/Membership Chair
Department of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary
(763) 234-9852 call or text***

March 20, 2026

Happy Friday All,

We had another great week jumping more than one percentage point overall for Arizona! We remain in 3rd place in the country. This is when it gets tough and the tough get going!

- **District 11** is in first place and at 97.41%! Almost there! WOW.
- Moving into second is **District 1** at 95.15%! Unit 19 in Yuma jumped nearly 10% points and **joined the 100% club**. Yahoo!
- Close on their tail, is **District 7**, in third at 94.79% . I don't know what's in the water in Dolan Springs (see what I did there? lol), but Unit 88 went up 25% points to 135.90%!!!
- In 4th: **District 5** at 93.47%
- In 5th: **District 12** at 92.97%
- 6th: **District 6** at 92.39%
- 7th: **District 2** at 91.64%
- 8th: **District 3** at 91.53%
- 9th: **District 8** at 90.14
- Coming up from behind, and even with 1/3 of their Units over 100%, is **District 4** with 75.76%. I know you are working hard at moving forward.

On another note, I've been thinking about Poppy & Memorial Day coming up— and their solemn significance given the recent loss of American Service members. Al and I put together the attached draft letters. Each is intended to be a solemn reminder of the meaning of the poppy and the need for us to continue to support veterans, military and their families. Please feel free to use it or change it, if it can be of any use to you or your Units. Instead of asking for a poppy donation, the letter could be altered to ask members to rejoin or renew instead.

Have a great weekend!

Marge

Marge Christianson
VP/Membership Chair
Department of Arizona
American Legion Auxiliary
(763) 234-9852 call or text

Dear American Legion Auxiliary Members,

As we look toward America's 250th birthday, it feels especially meaningful to pause and reflect on the symbols that bind us together in remembrance and gratitude. One of the most enduring is the red poppy. For generations, the poppy has stood as a quiet but powerful reminder of the American service members who gave their lives in conflicts around the world. Its bright color symbolizes both the sacrifice made and the hope that their legacy inspires.

Given the recent loss of American lives in the Iran conflict, the poppy has taken on an even deeper resonance. It reminds us of the brave Americans who served and never returned home, and of the families and communities forever changed by their loss. When we wear or display a poppy, we honor their courage, their service, and the ideals they defended.

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's 250th year, I invite you to honor that legacy in a meaningful way. Please consider making a donation to support our veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Your generosity helps ensure that those who served—and those who continue to serve—receive the care, recognition, and support they deserve.

Thank you for your dedication, your compassion, and your unwavering commitment to our mission. May the poppy continue to remind us of the cost of freedom and the responsibility we share in preserving it.

With gratitude,

[Your Name]

American Legion Auxiliary

Draft Letter

Dear American Legion Auxiliary Members,

As we look ahead to America's 250th birthday, we are reminded of the long and often difficult journey that has shaped our nation. Few symbols capture that journey—and the sacrifices behind it—more powerfully than the red poppy.

For more than a century, the poppy has stood as a tribute to American service members who gave their lives in defense of freedom. Its bright red petals remind us of the cost of war, the resilience of those who serve, and the promise that their sacrifice will never be forgotten. Today, the poppy continues to honor all who have fallen, including the American service members whose lives have been lost in recent conflicts involving Iran. Their memory lives on in the values they defended and in the communities that continue to support their families and fellow service members.

As we approach this historic milestone—America's 250th year—we have an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to those who wear the uniform and those who have borne the burden of service. In that spirit, we invite you to make a contribution in honor of our nation's semiquincentennial. Your generosity helps ensure that veterans, active-duty military, and their families receive the support, care, and recognition they deserve.

May the poppy remind us not only of sacrifice, but also of our shared responsibility to uphold the legacy of those who served.

With gratitude for all you do,

[Your Name]

[Your Title / Unit]

March 27, 2026

Happy Friday!

Arizona continues to hold onto third place nationally—but things have really slowed down here in the heat. Our overall increase was less than 1 percentage point this past week.... But we will heat up as the weather cools down!!

Standings:

District 11 holds first place with 97.79%. YAY!

District 7 went from 3rd to 2nd place with 97.10%.

District 1 is right behind in 3rd at 96.97%. Unit 46 Bouse joins the 100% Club! Awesome!!

District 6 moved up 2 places to 4th at 95.63%. Leading that move was Unit 69 Payson—who went up 13 percentage points!

Districts 5 & 12 are neck and neck with 93.75% and 93.43% respectively.

Districts 2, 8 and 3 are also neck and neck with 91.88%, 91.80% and 91.76% respectively.

District 4 is at 76.24%. Casa Grande Unit 8 keeps pulling for District 4—now at 107%!

Have a great weekend!

Marge

MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS MARCH 27, 2026, with 3-20 comparison

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	PERCENT 3/20
		0100	Phoenix	153	4	163	167	109.15%	107.84%
		Total		153	4	163	167	109.15%	107.84%
	Total			153	4	163	167	109.15%	107.84%
01		0019	Yuma	182	7	177	184	101.10%	101.10%
		0046	Bouse	63	1	64	65	103.17%	93.65%
		0056	Yuma	72	1	60	61	84.72%	84.72%
		0113	Quartzsite	13	0	10	10	76.92%	76.92%
		Total		330	9	311	320	96.97%	95.15%
	Total			330	9	311	320	96.97%	95.15%
02		0007	Tucson	46	1	34	35	76.09%	76.09%
		0036	Tucson	243	2	225	227	93.42%	93.42%
		0059	Tucson	127	5	113	118	92.91%	92.91%
		0066	Green Valley	883	0	822	822	93.09%	93.09%
		0068	Tucson	56	3	49	52	92.86%	89.29%
		0073	Tucson	25	1	15	16	64.00%	64.00%
		0109	Vail	440	7	395	402	91.36%	90.45%
		0125	Tucson	15	1	13	14	93.33%	93.33%
		0131	Green Valley	601	0	556	556	92.51%	92.51%
		0132	Oro Valley	77	2	65	67	87.01%	87.01%
		Total		2513	22	2287	2309	91.88%	91.64%
Total			2513	22	2287	2309	91.88%	91.64%	
03		0011	Douglas	116	4	123	127	109.48%	109.48%
		0016	Bisbee	48	0	44	44	91.67%	91.67%
		0024	Tombstone	450	11	408	419	93.11%	92.67%
		0045	Benson	45	4	43	47	104.44%	104.44%
		0052	Sierra Vista	183	0	132	132	72.13%	72.13%
		0141	Pearce	20	0	22	22	110.00%	110.00%
		Total		862	19	772	791	91.76%	91.53%
Total			862	19	772	791	91.76%	91.53%	
04		0008	Casa Grande	27	1	28	29	107.41%	100.00%
		0009	Florence	191	0	105	105	54.97%	54.97%
		0051	Coolidge	72	11	60	71	98.61%	98.61%
		0054	Coolidge	81	1	66	67	82.72%	82.72%
		0129	Queen Creek	31	1	26	27	87.10%	87.10%
		0133	Maricopa	23	2	23	25	108.70%	108.70%
		Total		425	16	308	324	76.24%	75.76%
Total			425	16	308	324	76.24%	75.76%	

05		0004	Globe	42	2	29	31	73.81%	73.81%
		0028	Clifton	89	2	72	74	83.15%	82.02%
		0032	Safford	139	0	144	144	103.60%	103.60%
		0095	Solomon	82	6	75	81	98.78%	98.78%
		Total		352	10	320	330	93.75%	93.47%
	Total		352	10	320	330	93.75%	93.47%	
06		0030	Springerville	94	1	92	93	98.94%	93.62%
		0037	Holbrook	36	0	31	31	86.11%	86.11%
		0069	Payson	112	0	95	95	84.82%	71.43%
		0086	Overgaard	468	11	448	459	98.08%	97.44%
		0147	Payson	0	0	1	1		
	Total		710	12	667	679	95.63%	92.39%	
	Total		710	12	667	679	95.63%	92.39%	
07		0003	Flagstaff	68	3	58	61	89.71%	83.82%
		0013	Williams	74	3	61	64	86.49%	85.14%
		0014	Kingman	131	5	117	122	93.13%	93.13%
		0022	Golden Valley	146	4	126	130	89.04%	89.04%
		0042	Grand Canyon	42	5	34	39	92.86%	92.86%
		0057	Ash Fork	68	2	64	66	97.06%	95.59%
		0081	Lake Havasu City	759	4	699	703	92.62%	89.06%
		0087	Bullhead City	124	3	169	172	138.71%	136.29%
		0088	Dolan Springs	39	0	53	53	135.90%	135.90%
		0103	Meadview	53	0	64	64	120.75%	120.75%
		0123	Seligman	35	0	20	20	57.14%	57.14%
		0136	Yucca	15	2	13	15	100.00%	100.00%
	Total		1554	31	1478	1509	97.10%	94.79%	
	Total		1554	31	1478	1509	97.10%	94.79%	
08		0006	Prescott	304	6	328	334	109.87%	108.55%
		0025	Cottonwood	336	6	283	289	86.01%	85.42%
		0040	Chino Valley	97	0	89	89	91.75%	87.63%
		0078	Humboldt	148	1	122	123	83.11%	77.03%
		0079	Yarnell	172	0	154	154	89.53%	89.53%
		0090	Black Canyon City	65	1	61	62	95.38%	92.31%
		0093	Camp Verde	117	0	98	98	83.76%	82.91%
		0108	Prescott Valley	31	3	23	26	83.87%	83.87%
		0135	Cornville	42	6	31	37	88.10%	88.10%
		0140	Prescott Valley	17	4	4	8	47.06%	47.06%
	Total		1329	27	1193	1220	91.80%	90.14%	
	Total		1329	27	1193	1220	91.80%	90.14%	

11	0001	Phoenix	114	1	97	98	85.96%	85.96%
	0005	Phoenix	61	1	60	61	100.00%	100.00%
	0012	Wickenburg	219	1	212	213	97.26%	97.26%
	0029	Glendale	240	8	204	212	88.33%	87.92%
	0053	Buckeye	38	0	42	42	110.53%	110.53%
	0061	Avondale	239	2	229	231	96.65%	95.40%
	0062	Peoria	1122	18	1160	1178	104.99%	104.55%
	0105	Phoenix	299	10	247	257	85.95%	85.95%
	0115	Glendale	37	4	31	35	94.59%	94.59%
	0145	Peoria	25	0	14	14	56.00%	56.00%
	Total		2394	45	2296	2341	97.79%	97.41%
Total		2394	45	2296	2341	97.79%	97.41%	
12	0002	Tempe	101	0	82	82	81.19%	81.19%
	0026	Mesa	251	1	204	205	81.67%	81.27%
	0027	Apache Junction	2039	11	1965	1976	96.91%	95.98%
	0034	Cave Creek	318	1	280	281	88.36%	88.36%
	0035	Chandler	295	5	272	277	93.90%	93.90%
	0039	Gilbert	636	12	586	598	94.03%	93.87%
	0041	Phoenix	351	11	307	318	90.60%	89.46%
	0044	Scottsdale	314	0	269	269	85.67%	85.35%
	0058	Fountain Hills	411	5	398	403	98.05%	97.81%
	0064	Phoenix	16	0	15	15	93.75%	93.75%
	0065	Phoenix	358	22	289	311	86.87%	86.59%
	0084	Sacaton	60	5	45	50	83.33%	83.33%
	0091	Chandler	308	21	320	341	110.71%	110.71%
	0107	Phoenix	215	3	221	224	104.19%	104.19%
	0114	Scottsdale	9	1	7	8	88.89%	88.89%
	0117	Phoenix	243	2	200	202	83.13%	83.13%
	0124	Guadalupe	29	5	31	36	124.14%	124.14%
	0138	Mesa	138	2	94	96	69.57%	69.57%
Total		6092	107	5585	5692	93.43%	92.97%	
Total		6092	107	5585	5692	93.43%	92.97%	
Total	Total	16714	302	15380	15682	93.83%	93.01%	



Since its inception in 2022 the “Be The One” initiative has been a “game changer” for the American Legion Family working together to reduce the occurrence of suicide in veterans. The goal is to have individuals in every American Legion Post that are trained in Suicide Prevention.

On the average, over 17.6 deaths by suicide occurred per day in the U.S. during 2022. The “Be the One” initiative was inspired by a Navy Seal Dave Berkenfield and was officially adopted by the American Legion that year. The premise focused on a belief that is very simple: peer intervention at crucial times can save the life of just one veteran, thus “Be The One To Save One.” Since that year, the Legion Family has made this their mission.

The initiative proposals include:

- Remove the shame involved in getting mental health counseling for Veterans and changing the mindset that seeking help is an act of courage rather than one of weakness.
- Promote “Buddy Checks.”
- Create awareness the first day of each month as “Be the One” Day by hosting events and wearing promotional clothing.
- Promoting suicide prevention and providing training to members of the Legion Family.

In partnership with Columbia University, “Be The One” training sessions have adopted the use of the “Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale” to identify and assist Veterans in crisis. The program hopes to “Build Connections by Simply Asking.” “Just asking the questions can be a positive Action. When we ask someone how they’re doing, it signals that someone cares about them. This simple action promotes connectedness—a critical protective factor against suicide and other problems.”¹ There are questions on the severity rating scale that can be asked to put you on the path to see if someone needs help.

I have taken the “Be the One” training and highly recommend that you take it and make it available to your members. It could save a life.

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one>
<https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/be-the-one/2024/march/be-the-one-training-tackles-how-to-help-those-in-suicidal-crisis>

¹ “The Columbia Light House Project.” cssrs.columbia

Respectfully submitted by Deb Albers, Northwestern Division Chairman

National Security Resources

National Website & Program

Engagement Plan – Log into your member portal and visit the National Security Page under Committees. Select the “Get Involved” button to access the Program Engagement Plan.

Facebook – Follow us on Facebook!

Don’t forget to answer the questions...
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/915563745139663/>

National Security email address

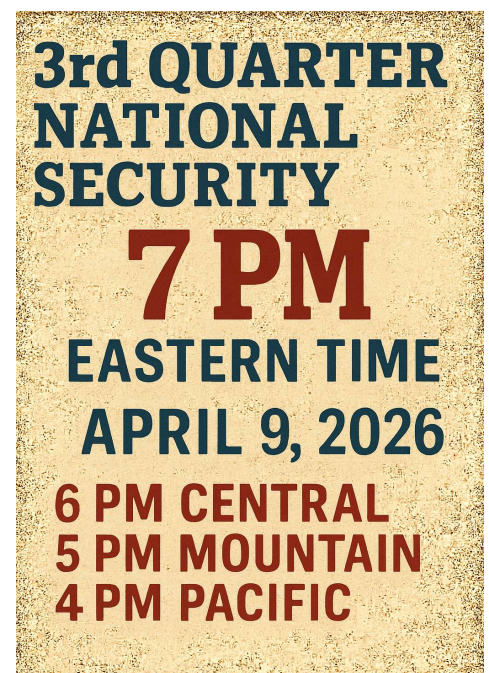
nationalsecurity@ALAforVeterans.org

Save the Dates!

1st of Every Month – Be The One Day

May 15th – Department Year-End Reports Due

June 1st – Salute to Servicemember nominations Due



**3rd QUARTER
NATIONAL
SECURITY**
7 PM
EASTERN TIME
APRIL 9, 2026
6 PM CENTRAL
5 PM MOUNTAIN
4 PM PACIFIC

YEAR-END REPORTS

Due on May 15, 2026

By National Chairman, Norma Tramm

It is only March, but reports will be coming to department chairs very soon. We have some changes this year that should make things easier for you to apply for awards and complete your Year-end report.

The award form will have a box to check if you wish to use the report for both your department award submission as well as your year-end report. Just make sure that the entry is completed by 11:59 PM ET on May 15, 2026, if you wish to have it used for the year-end report. Once entered it will be sent to the division chair and the national chair. You will have your report completed and entered for a department award.

If you are only using the form for the department award, you will have until June 1, 2026, to complete the form.

If you are only sending a year-end report, you can submit a narrative using the following guidelines. The report should then be sent to both your division chair and the national chair by May 15, 2026. Please note - report 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.

Spotlight on Service: Salute to Servicemembers Award

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) annually honors enlisted servicemembers with the Salute to Servicemembers Award, recognizing their military excellence and community commitment. This award covers all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and National Guard/Reserve, with aims for full representation, including the first nomination from the Space Force.

Any ALA member, Unit, or Department can nominate a servicemember without Department approval. The nomination package must include:

- The online nomination form
- A narrative (up to 1,000 words) on the nominee's achievements and community impact
- A photo in uniform (preferably an official DoD photo)
- An endorsement from someone in their command group

Submissions are made through the ALA Membership Portal by selecting Committees → Awards and Reporting → Salute to Servicemembers. The deadline for nominations is **June 1, 2026**. Award recipients will be recognized at the ALA National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Now is the time to reach out, reflect on the servicemembers in your community, and begin drafting your nominations. Together, we can ensure these heroes receive the recognition they truly deserve!

Submitted by National Vice-Chairman Jammie Phillips

YEAR-END REPORTING Continued

Report guidelines:

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 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
 - 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 servicemembers 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?

We are excited to hear about all the wonderful work that has been happening this year in your department to further the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA MARCH POPPY 2026



REMINDER: Reports and narratives are due May 1st. Poppy Posters (originals with paperwork) are due May 5th. Please adjust your reporting accordingly.

Attention Unit Executive members: Each year we find some Juniors are participating in the Miss Poppy Program, yet they are not completing a scrapbook and forwarding it to National. A review of this program does not yield many directions or guidance for participating in this part of the Poppy Program.

As you can see from the National Rules listed below, Miss Poppy starts in May, so plans should be made in April to get the year started on time. We as an organization do a lot of pre-planning but it seems this is an area that is lacking that attention. Perhaps if we look at all programs there might be other areas we need to start pre-planning.

The following is taken from National: Little Miss Poppy (Ages 6-12)

NEW FOR 2023-2024 – Little Miss Poppy award submissions are now electronic to address postage and material cost considerations. Please refer to the rules below for submission requirements and deadline information.

- Participant must be between 6 and 12 years of age as of June 1 and be a Junior member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- *Promotional activity of the poppy story must occur through The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the community during the timespan of May 1 of the current year to April 30 of the following year.*
- For National Little Miss Poppy consideration, participant must submit a <https://www.legion-aux.org/Little-Miss-Poppy-Award-Form> with supporting documentation.
- All entries are due by 5 p.m. on June 1.
- In addition to the information on the award application, please include documentation on the criteria below. Accepted formats are Word document, Google Slides, or .pdf. PowerPoint presentations may also be uploaded via Googles Slides. For more information on Google Slides, please visit <https://www.google.com/slides/about/>.

Criteria for judging Little Miss Poppy entries:

- The memorial poppy must be visible in all promotion and publicity submitted.
- There is no specific dress code or dress color for Little Miss Poppy.
- Promotion of the Poppy Program: What did you share and do?
- Publicity of poppy activities (newspapers, radio/TV, etc.).
- Submitted file must include the following information (both pictures and descriptions)
 - What I learned during my time as Little Miss Poppy?
 - How I shared the story of the poppy with my community?
 - What does the poppy mean to me?
 - What activities did I attend to promote the poppy and its meaning?

- Age-appropriate originality with considerations for neatness and creativity.

The Little Miss Poppy (age 6-12) winner may be invited to the ALA National Convention immediately following her selection, and if she so chooses, will travel at her own expense.

The winner of the National Little Miss Poppy contest will receive a citation plaque.

We, the membership of the American Legion Auxiliary work as a team in our Units to do seemingly impossible tasks for our veterans, community and our youth. So, your input is invaluable at the Department level to help lift this part of the Poppy Program up and encourage more participation.

It has been many years since my home Unit has had a Miss Poppy participant so as the Department of Arizona Poppy Chairperson I am asking for your assistance. This state is not the only state struggling to get participants for Miss Poppy. Will it help if there is some kind of calendar of events that the Units can assist Juniors to plan on participating in to provide more activity in this contest? Will it help to have some guidelines and goals associated with these events to enhance participation?

EXAMPLES: May is the month to distribute poppies so planning must be made in April for participation as there are three opportunities during this month –Armed Forces Day May 16, National Poppy Day May 22, and Memorial Day May 25.

June 14 is flag day –contestants could give a small flag on a stand decorated with at least one poppy to veterans either in VA hospital/home or a local nursing home. Photo-op

Each month could be a different participating event/goal with unit members creating special Unit goals for the contestants in their unit in addition to ones provided. Each photo op requires an explanation of who, date, event, and where.

In looking at the Junior Patch Program levels there is a detailed guide on how to complete the goals for a Poppy Patch at four different levels of age groups. Perhaps we can incorporate parts of those level guides to assist the Miss Poppy contestants.

Maybe with your help we can re-energize participation in Miss Poppy and provide a pathway for other states. I look forward to hearing from you

Kat Sticklin, Department Poppy Chair
katsticklin2025@gmail.com
928-322-1550

Wendy Hackney, Co-chair
wendy9rs@gmail.com
480-510-6824

QR CODES ARE FREE!!

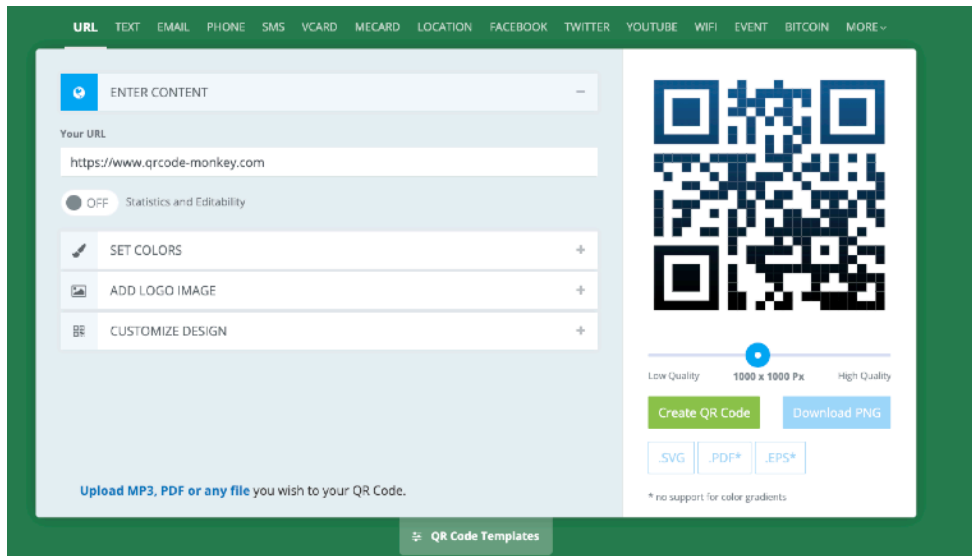
Did you know that you can create free qr codes for your events, sites and all sorts of fun things?

All you need is the site information for your event be it Facebook event, website with flyer posted on it or any website that links to your event.

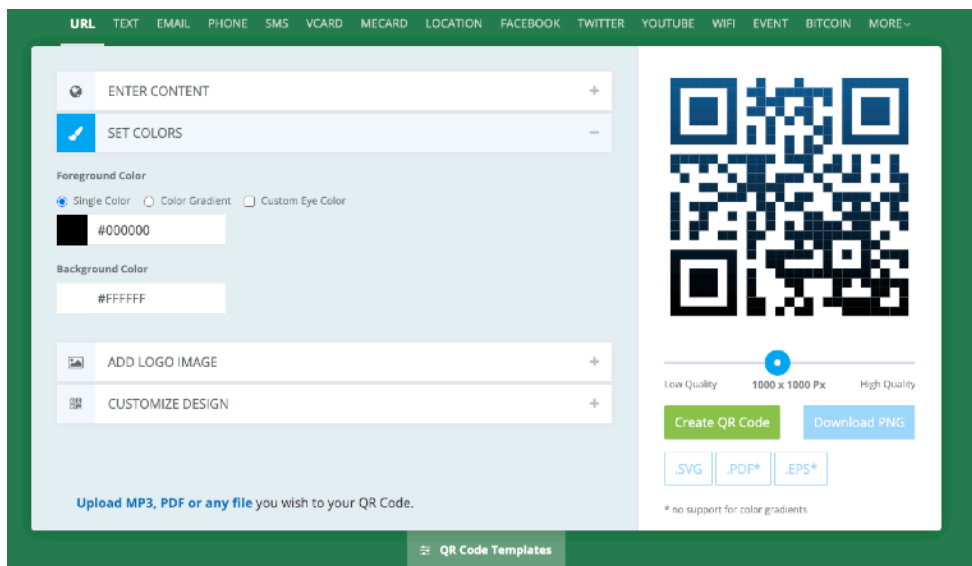
Below is the website for QRCode Monkey
<https://www.qrcode-monkey.com/>

This site allows you to create QR codes for all sorts of things such as websites, flyers, promos and many other things.

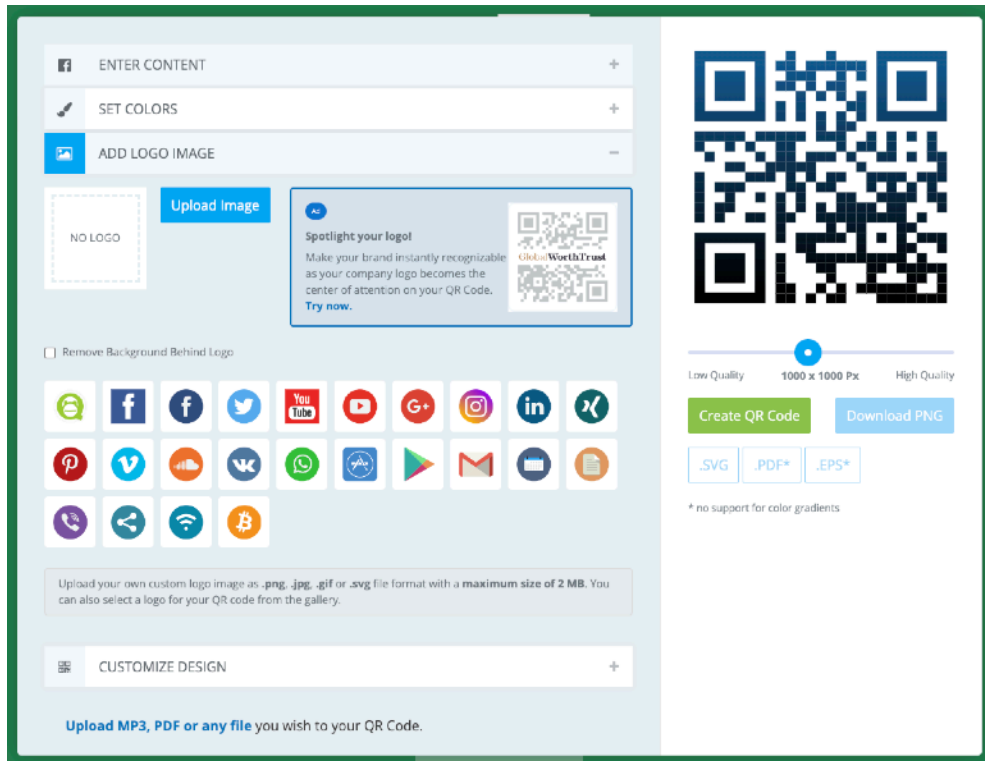
Once you are on the site you just have to enter the information you need such as url or web address, Facebook link, phone number or email.



From there you can then set colors and do gradients should you choose



You can also add in a logo if you like. It will place it center and without adjusting the logo. This may be an upgrade depending on how many times you do it at once. Usually it is free.



Once you are ready then you just hit the created QR code green button on the right hand side and it will show you a preview above it.

If you like it hit download PNG or the blue button and it will download to your desktop.

Also it will give you an ad but you can close it and just let it download.

Then you can use as you like as many times as you like. It is your for use.

FREE ARTWORK SITE

Below are a few places for free artwork. There is a mixture of free and premium usually marked as such.

Most might ask for a small note of who created it and you can always place that near the bottom of your flyer or site in small font.

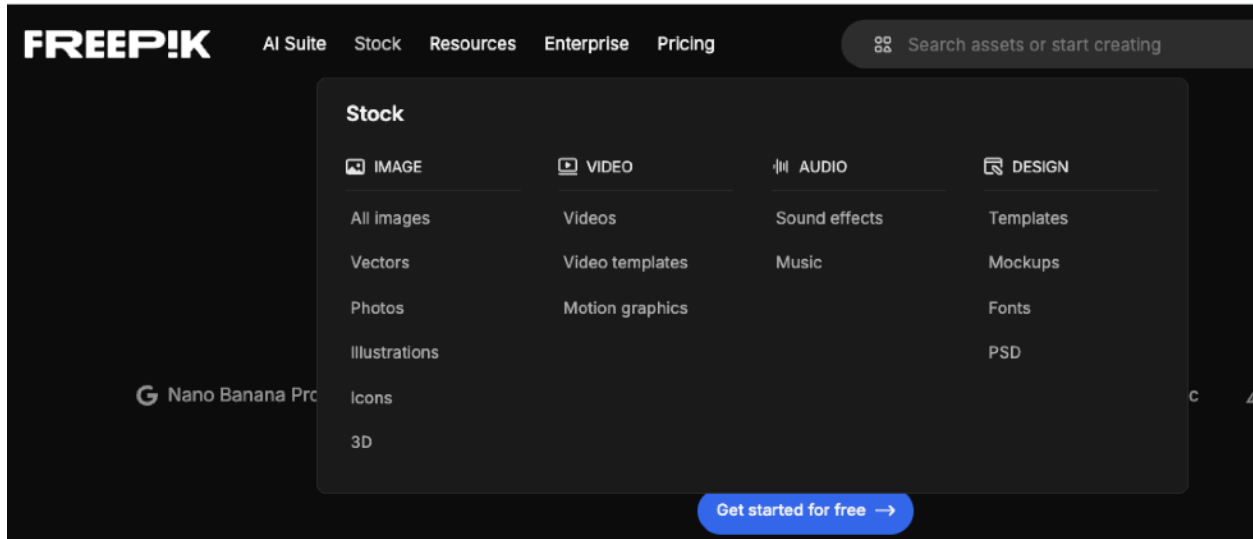
Free Vector art is illustrations and such for use.
<https://all-free-download.com/free-vector/artwork.html>

Free Pik - Does require a free account but is super easy to use and work with.

This one will mark paid art with a cute crown on it for premium.

Under the Stock tab there are all sorts of things from images, videos, audio and design for flyers and templates. Please note the templates and psd design will require a form of photoshop or light room.

<https://www.freepik.com>



If you should have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.
Happy Event creating!!

Shannon Mead
Department PR Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary
shannonmead@live.com
623-521-1263

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

April 2026

By 2nd Vice – Lynda Griffin



2026 American Legion Washington Conference

I attended the American Legion Washington Conference last month and it was extremely emotional and a learning experience for me. Some of the issues we talked to our State Representative and Senator's about where the following issues concerning our veterans today. I have attached the information of each issue to this month's bulletin, they are as follows: Balanced Community Care, Empowering and investing in Women Veterans, Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity, and Improving Lethality of our armed Forces. Major Richard Star Act, Veteran Homelessness, Winning the War Within.

I have attached a brief newsletter sharing an important message from the American Legion National Commander. Please read and share this information with your unit.

On behalf of the Department of Arizona American Legion Auxiliary I would like to extend our warmest congratulation to all the National winners. Congratulation to Felix Fortuna for winning First Place at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF). This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to your incredible talent. Mr. Fortuna will be turning 102 year young on June 9, 2026, he is a veteran of the United State Navy. While we are sorry to hear that you will be unable to attend the National VCAF in person this year which falls on your special day, we want to celebrate this incredible milestone with you. Happy 102nd Birthday! We are all so proud of your accomplishments and grateful for your service.



**Carl T Hayden Phoenix VA Medical Center
National Competition Winners**

*Destroyer of Valor, Feliciano Fortuna
1st Place Combat Experience (top left)*

Let us all remember the ALA Mission Statement in everything we do!

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Balanced Community Care

BACKGROUND

Access to community care is essential for veterans, particularly those living in rural areas and those with unique needs. An estimated 4.6 million veterans reside in rural communities, with 58% enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), compared to 38% for urban veterans, underscoring the need for accessible healthcare options.

While The American Legion believes VA should remain the cornerstone of veterans healthcare, integration of community care to supplement the VA direct-care system has been an important relief valve to ensure veterans get the care they need, when they need it.

Over \$150 billion has been spent on community care since 2015. Costs for community care have grown approximately 20% annually since 2019, while internal VA costs have remained stable. The increase is primarily due to expanded eligibility.

Rural veterans face unique challenges obtaining VA care. For instance, lack of internet connectivity makes it difficult for rural veterans to attend telehealth visits. Rural broadband access must be expanded and transportation programs improved.

KEY POINTS

- Community care should receive the same coordination and oversight as VHA-provided care.
- Community care costs have ballooned due to expanded use and require additional oversight.
- VA providers should be able to fully treat veterans outside of the state in which they are licensed to operate.
- Transportation programs for veterans to and from appointments both at VA and in the community must be improved, including emergency flights.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass S. 275/H.R. 740 – Veterans ACCESS Act**
- **Pass H.R. 1107 – Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act**
- Ensure veterans receive any bills for copays quickly and do not receive surprise bills months after treatment.
- Pass legislation codifying rules VA is currently using to allow doctors to treat and prescribe remotely for patients outside the state the provider is licensed in.



THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Scan the QR code to read the full list of legislative priorities of The American Legion.



Empowering and Investing in Women Veterans

BACKGROUND

Women are the fastest-growing demographic within the military and veteran community. Women have played a vital role in every conflict since the Revolutionary War, and yet, the existing infrastructure to support their health-care needs continues to be insufficient.

Research shows that women veterans have a suicide rate that is 92.4% higher than their female civilian counterparts. Additionally, the suicide rate was 75% higher for women using VA services who reported experiencing Military Sexual Trauma (MST). The research is clear – more must be done to support the health needs of our female veterans.

Another emerging challenge for VA surrounds the impacts of menopause. Despite impacting half of the population, not much is known about menopause and its effects on women, let alone women who have served. Additionally, 20% of perimenopausal women report symptoms of depression, which becomes complex when considering the additional factor of their service.

The American Legion is proud to endorse, advocate for, and offer grassroots support for legislation that supports and invests in women who have served. The American Legion is fighting for health-care facilities that are inclusive, empowering survivors of MST and investing in research to support women as they age.

KEY POINTS

- Women are the fastest-growing demographic within the military and veteran community.
- Research shows that women veterans have a suicide rate that is 92.4% higher than that of their female civilian counterparts.
- When compared to their civilian counterparts, the suicide rate was 75% higher for women using VA services who reported experiencing MST.
- Not much is known about menopause and its effects on women, let alone women who have served.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass S. 1245 – Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support (SAVES) Act**
- **Pass S. 609 – Building Resources and Access for Veterans' Mental Health Engagement (BRAVE) Act**
- **Pass H.R. 219 – Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act**

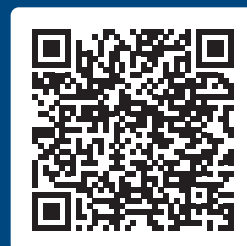


92.4% HIGHER

the suicide rate for women veterans
compared to their civilian counterparts

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*Scan the QR code to read the full
list of legislative priorities of The
American Legion.*



Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

BACKGROUND

National Guard and Reserve servicemembers play a critical role in defending our borders, responding to public health crises and supporting local law enforcement. These servicemembers frequently face unique challenges on the home front, often leaving behind their families and civilian jobs for extended periods, sometimes at a considerable financial loss. Despite their significant contributions, they are often denied a fundamental benefit: the GI Bill.

Under current law, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers accrue GI Bill entitlement only when activated under federal orders. When activated under state orders, they do not qualify for GI Bill benefits, creating a significant disparity in access to these crucial resources. This issue became particularly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic when many National Guard units were activated in response to the public health emergency. Those called under federal orders to assist with pandemic relief were eligible for GI Bill benefits, but those activated under state orders, such as those supporting governors' declarations, were not. Similarly, National Guard members who helped construct the U.S.-Mexico border wall earned GI Bill benefits, but the thousands who responded to civil rights protests in 2020 did not.

The arbitrary distinction between federal and state orders in determining GI Bill eligibility is unjust and should be eliminated. The American Legion strongly believes that "every day in uniform counts" and that National Guard and Reserve servicemembers, who serve alongside their active-duty counterparts, should receive the same benefits. It is time for Congress to rectify this discrepancy and extend GI Bill eligibility to all National Guard and Reserve servicemembers, regardless of the nature of their activation.

KEY POINTS

- Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, all 50 states and U.S. territories activated servicemembers under 502(f) status to directly assist in the crisis.
- When Army Reserve servicemembers are ordered to professional development academies, they are activated under GI Bill-eligible 12301(d) orders.
- When National Guard servicemembers are ordered to the same professional development academies, they are activated under GI Bill-ineligible 502(f) orders.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass H.R. 1423 - Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025**
- **Pass H.R. 6975 – Duty Status Reform Act** to simplify Guard and Reserve pay and benefits accounting.
- Hold DoD and the National Guard Bureau accountable for transparency to National Guard and Reserve servicemembers on their GI Bill eligibility.



THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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Improving Lethality of our Armed Forces

BACKGROUND

The continued modernization of the U.S. Armed Forces is essential for maintaining military superiority and ensuring national security in an increasingly complex and dynamic global environment.

As adversaries adopt new technologies and strategies, the United States must stay ahead by embracing cutting-edge solutions and modernizing its defense capabilities.

This includes investing in next-generation weaponry, cybersecurity measures and artificial intelligence, all critical to maintaining strategic advantage.

America no longer has the world's largest navy and China's shipbuilding capacity is 232 times greater than that of the United States.

The modernization process also involves updating military infrastructure, improving logistics and enhancing the training and operational readiness of personnel to address evolving threats.

KEY POINTS

- The U.S. Navy trails behind China's navy in number of battle force ships. As of 2025, China's navy has over 370 ships, whereas the U.S. Navy has 296 ships.
- The defense industrial base is not equipped to meet the rising shipbuilding demand to meet the U.S. Navy's projected force-level goals over the next 30 years. Increasing the domestic shipbuilding capacity requires expanding shipyard infrastructure and developing a skilled shipbuilding workforce.
- Unmanned systems are growing in demand for aerial, ground, and maritime warfighting applications. Specialized components are commonly sourced worldwide for the domestic production of unmanned systems, posing a supply chain risk for the defense industrial base's manufacturing capacity for unmanned systems.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass H.R. 3151/S.1541 – Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act**
- **Pass S. 5618 – Fostering Reform and Government Efficiency in Defense (FoRGED) Act**
- National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027



THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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Major Richard Star Act

BACKGROUND

The Major Richard Star Act is bipartisan legislation intended to correct a long-standing inequity affecting medically retired, combat-injured veterans. The bill would authorize full concurrent receipt of Department of Defense (DoD) medical retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation for eligible veterans who were medically retired prior to completing 20 years of service due to combat-related disabilities.

Under current law, certain combat-injured veterans who are medically retired with fewer than 20 years of service are required to waive or offset their earned DoD medical retirement pay in order to receive VA disability compensation. This policy creates an inequitable, two-tiered system that arbitrarily distinguishes veterans based solely on length of service rather than the severity or cause of their injuries. As a result, veterans whose military careers were involuntarily cut short by combat-related wounds are financially penalized for circumstances beyond their control. The Major Richard Star Act would restore fairness by ensuring these veterans receive the full benefits they have earned through honorable service and sacrifice.

KEY POINTS

- Combat-injured veterans who are medically retired before completing 20 years of service are currently denied full concurrent receipt of benefits they have earned.
- Military retired pay is earned compensation for honorable service, while VA disability compensation is restitution for service-connected injuries; these benefits serve separate and distinct purposes.
- Under current law, veterans are treated unequally based solely on length of service, not on the severity, cause or combat-related nature of their injuries.
- It eliminates the requirement that medically retired combat-injured veterans waive earned retirement pay in order to receive VA disability compensation.
- Combat-injured veterans are medically retired through no fault of their own, often as a direct result of wounds sustained in service to the nation.
- The current \$1-for-\$1 offset policy undermines financial stability for wounded veterans and their families.
- This disparity undermines fairness, morale and the nation's obligation to those who were wounded in defense of the United States.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass H.R.2102 – Major Richard Star Act** to authorize full concurrent receipt for medically retired combat-injured veterans.
- Eliminate statutory offsets that unfairly penalize veterans wounded in combat.
- Ensure parity and fairness across all military retirement categories.



THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

March 2026

Issue #7 Special Edition

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE VA&R PROGRAM

**Please share the message below to all of our members from
The American Legion National Commander, Dan Wiley**

"All,

The American Legion Auxiliary/Sons of The American Legion know this all too well—military families already carry more than their fair share of challenges and uncertainty that comes with supporting our loved ones in uniform. One thing that should never be uncertain is whether our service members will be paid for their work.

Right now, Coast Guard families are facing that uncertainty. Missing a paycheck doesn't just affect the service member—it affects spouses, children, rent or mortgage payments, groceries, and every part of family life. No family who is serving this country should have to wonder how they will make ends meet.

Your voice matters. Members of Congress need to hear directly from the families who live this reality every day. [Please take a few minutes to contact your Senators and Representative TODAY and urge them to act immediately to ensure Coast Guard service members receive the pay they have earned.](#)

Our military families sacrifice so much to support the mission. The least our nation can do is ensure that those who serve are paid on time, every time. Thank you for standing up for Coast Guard families."

**Click on the live link in [blue](#) above to contact your Senators and Representatives.
Do it today- Don't delay!**



Veteran Homelessness

BACKGROUND

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count provides an estimate that approximately 32,882 veterans are currently experiencing homelessness in the United States, including Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Veterans make up a disproportionate share of the homeless adult population, representing about 8% to 9% of all homeless adults across these regions. Despite significant progress made since 2009, with sheltered and unsheltered veteran homelessness alike decreasing by 49%, considerable work remains to be done to ensure that no veteran is left without stable housing. Persistence of this issue highlights the need for continued efforts and innovative solutions in addressing the root causes of homelessness among veterans.

KEY POINTS

- In 2024, 19,031 veterans experienced sheltered homelessness – a decrease of 1,036 veterans (5.2%) from 2023.
- In 2024, 13,851 veterans experienced unsheltered homelessness – a decrease of 1,656 veterans (10.6%) from 2023.
- Female veterans are the fastest-growing demographic among the U.S. homeless population.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass H.R. 1957 – End Veteran Homelessness Act**
- **Pass H.R. 3869 – Every Veteran Housed Act**
- Provide a higher allocation of project-based HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers for homeless veterans.
- Ensure enhanced use leasing specifically provides permanent benefits, resources, and services to the veteran community.
- Permanently authorize the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program with adequate funding of \$800 million per year.
- Fully fund the Grant Per-Diem program as authorized by the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act at \$350 million per year.



32,882

Veterans Experiencing homelessness in the United States in 2024

Source: The 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR to Congress) Part 1: Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness, December 2024

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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JOIN US FOR THE ULTIMATE MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMUNITY HOME/HEALTH AND CAR SHOW



Extravaganza



- Military and Veterans Health & Wellness Community Vendors
- Food Trucks
- Guest Speakers
- Car Show: Trophies and Cash Prizes
- DJ
- Military and Veteran Social Gatherings and More!



Rev up your engines and cruise on over to the most anticipated car show of the year! Whether you're a car enthusiast, a collector or just someone who appreciates the beauty of finely crafted automobiles, this event is for you. Our Military and Veterans Appreciation Community Home/Health and Car Show Extravaganza will feature a stunning array of classic cars, muscle cars, hot rods and exotic vehicles from all eras as well as Veteran/Military Community Resources.

📍 Sandra Day O'Connor High School, 25250 N 35th Avenue, Phoenix

For more information and to register your vehicle, vendor or attendee:

🌐 <https://americanlegion3rdannualshow.eventbrite.com>

SEE YOU THERE!



21
MARCH
11 AM - 2 PM

Winning The War Within

BACKGROUND

The American Legion is a national leader in advocating for improvements in mental health care and peer support, through the Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide, risk-detection training, Buddy Check programs and advocacy.

The veteran suicide epidemic continues to be the No. 1 concern of The American Legion. Veteran suicide rates have increased by 52% since 2001, now more than double that of civilians.

Veterans grappling with mental health issues are more likely than others to take their own lives. The American Legion is actively combatting the “broken veteran” narrative and believes trauma can be a source of strength. Post-Traumatic Growth (PTG) is a recent theory exploring alternative outcomes for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatments, but PTG therapies have been difficult for VA to implement.

Through public private partnerships, organizations like the American Legion have the ability to implement peer-support programs for veterans. Many peer-support programs are eligible to apply for the Staff Sergeant Parker Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program which provides funding from VA to these organizations to accomplish their mission and the unique circumstances veterans face.

The American Legion supports alternative options for pain medication; opioid-dependent veterans are 90% more likely than others to die by suicide. The Legion also advocates for an improved Military Sexual Trauma claims process; veterans who have experienced sexual trauma have a 75% higher suicide rate than others.

Another emerging suicide comorbidity is Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), a type of brain injury often caused by multiple mild Traumatic Brain Injuries.

The American Legion urges Congress to continue exploring and expanding alternative and breakthrough therapies, especially those that affect the veteran community such as TBIs, CTE, PTSD and chronic pain.

KEY POINTS

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among veterans under 45.
- VA reports 17.5 veterans a day die of suicide, but it may be as high as 44.
- Mental health treatments reduce veteran suicide rates in veterans by 39.77%.
- The American Legion encourages the use of peer-support programs to address feelings of isolation within the veteran community.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass S. 800 – Precision Brain Health Research Act**, or similar legislation, to advance knowledge on how military brain injuries affect veteran suicide.
- **Pass S. 3346 – Freedom to Heal Act** to improve alternative therapy access
- **Pass H.R. 2623 – Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025** to designate centers of excellence for complimentary alternative medicine and breakthrough therapies.
- Permanently authorize the **Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program**
- Pass legislation which fast-tracks non-opioid alternatives for chronic pain.



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Do it today- Don't delay!**



CREATIVE ARTS

APRIL 2026

Since 2000, the Auxiliary has co-sponsored the National Creative Arts Program, along with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to support the Auxiliary's mission of Service Not Self. Members, units, and departments support the local competitions. Your Unit donations make these events possible. When mailing your monetary donations to Department, please specify that they are for our local Creative Arts program.

Each year, veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities showcase their talents in local Creative Arts Festivals. The Creative Arts program is a form of rehabilitative treatment that promotes recovery and well-being. It involves art, music, creative writing, dance, and drama. The categories in the visual arts division range from oil paintings to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In the performing arts division, the categories relate to music, dance, and creative writing.

The Phoenix Arts Festival will be held May 7, 2026, in the Topaz Clinic, at Carl T. Hayden Medical Center in Phoenix. Please attend the Arts Festival, view the amazing artwork, and meet our talented veterans. Your presence and applause is a great way to honor their hard work and talent. Last year, Phoenix had four winners, Daniel Combs (Printmaking), Tofe Eslava (Leather Tooling), Felix Fortuna (Combat Experience), and Melissa Freed (Fiber Arts). The works of Daniel Combs and Felix Fortuna will be judged at our National Creative Arts Festival on June 9-14, 2026, in Columbia, SC.

Please help us wish Mr. Fortuna a happy 103rd birthday by mailing him a card:

Felix Fortuna
8300 E. McDowell Rd., Apt 3067
Scottsdale, AZ 85257.

REMINDER: Unit reports for the Carmelite Staker Creative Arts Award are due May 1, 2026.

Feel free to contact me or a team member in your area with any questions:

Phoenix:	Christie Slegers	christie.slegers@gmail.com
Prescott:	Sally Fine	mightyfine123@gmail.com
Tucson:	Theresa Marks	ALATheresaMarks@gmail.com

For Service Not Self.

Anita Ritter, Chairman
8020 East Thomas Road, Unit 128,
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-6668
Ritmar@cox.net
602-679-1785

THE NEXT 7 PAGES ARE A WISHLIST FOR SAVAHCS HOSPICE ITEMS

Wish List:

- **# 1 request!** Angels for end-of-life bags (we currently purchase these with hospice funds)- these are provided to the families of Veterans when they pass this (is an ongoing need- usually use about 150-200 per year).

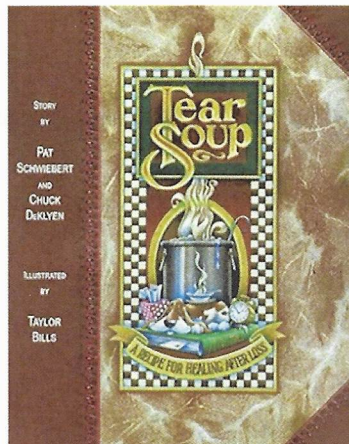
Search: Zingz & Thingz Hear My Prayer Collection Resin Candle Tealight Holder, 5.375x3.875x5.75, Desert Angel on Amazon



- o [Decorative Candle Holder](#)

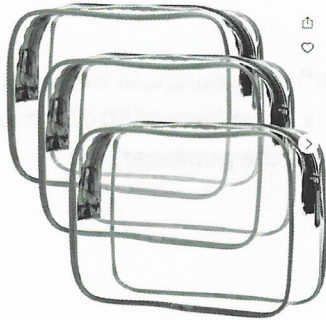
- **# 2 request!** Tear Soup books for end-of-life bags. (we currently purchase these with hospice funds)-provided to all families when Veteran passes away. (we have ~150-200 deaths a year)

- o <https://griefwatch.com/cart> (this is a direct link to the publisher)
 - 100- \$9.57 per book
 - 25-75- \$ 11.16 per book
 - Shipping starts at \$71.06



- Travel Sized Toiletry items for Veterans/families. (any brand)- goal is 150-200 sets.
 - o Lotion
 - o Facewash
 - o Body Wash
 - o Shampoo/Conditioner
 - o Combs that are sturdy
 - o Toothbrush/toothpaste
 - o Eye masks/ear plugs
 - o Deodorant
 - o Anything else you wish to add!

- Toiletry Bag- goal is 150-200 total bags
 - o <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Emapoy-Clear-Makeup-Bag-Waterproof-Travel-Toiletry-Bag-for-Women-Men-Black-3-Pcs/3091589318?classType=VARIANT&from=/search>



- Neck pillows- since these are one-time use they will go home with families. If possible, single/compressed wrap is ideal for storage.

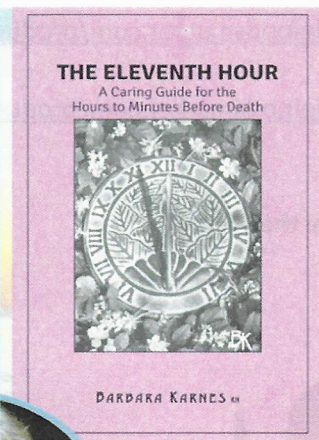
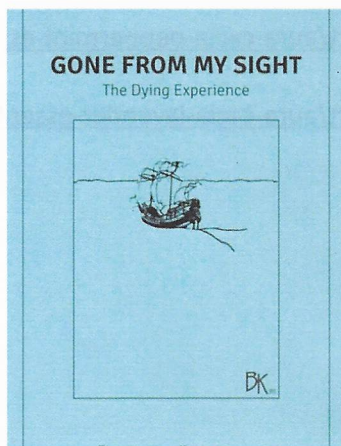
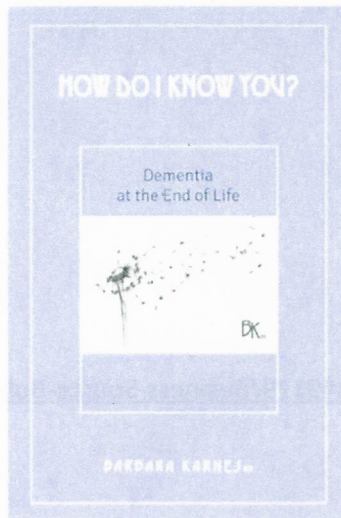


https://www.amazon.com/Brookstone-Memory-Travel-Vacations-Airplanes/dp/B0C9N2GH43/ref=asc_df_B0C9N2GH43?tag=bingshoppinga-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=80470694243359&hvnetw=o&hvqmt=e&hvbmt=be&hvdev=c&hvloci nt=&hvlocphy=75936&hvtargid=pla-4584070165762310&th=1

- These books are provided to family members of all patients admitted to hospice. We'd like to have about 100 each.

<https://bkbooks.com/>

- \$4.00 a book, with discounts based upon the total number for 100, it's \$1.90 a book



- Pads of paper for our admission packets. – goal 100
 - o <https://www.officedepot.com/a/products/764426/Office-Depot-Brand-Wirebound-Top-Opening/#Reviews>



- Pens for our welcome packets
 - o <https://www.officedepot.com/a/products/6349179/Business-Source-Bulk-Pack-Ballpoint-Stick/#Reviews>
- Aromatherapy diffusers and essential oils
 - o [diffusers](#)- goal is 20
 - o <https://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/product/aura-cacia-peppermint-essential-oil-05-fz-b00o85pz4e>
 - o <https://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/product/aura-cacia-lavender-essential-oil-05-fz-b00014ei26>
- Small radio/CD players, like the following



https://www.target.com/p/jensen-portable-cd-player-with-led-display-with-am-fm-stereo-radio-and-aux-input-red/-/A-94311047?TCID=PDS-9224351998&gclid=b69b37712719142b1eec5ec21b6ea53c&gclsrc=3p.ds&ds_rl=1246978&msclkid=b69b37712719142b1eec5ec21b6ea53c

- Digital Clocks for each room 17



https://www.amazon.com/%E3%80%90Upgraded%E3%80%91Digital-Calendar-Alarm-Day-Clock/dp/B07ZGK2FNF/ref=sr_1_4?dib=eyJ2IjoiaMSJ9.p6NsJdydsnhxPoohTm9cQomhTBDplgKypB SglEccxPdbaAjy_z7zmjUMOuXVnCundWK-rqDCKXc-wzCwkZfK8o-LQVBeaFU2rfanYZjnpwPF_kwGBP1E9lv54oESF9oGfuEOmYZmwVjRvNJo-6al_BYctqo-xsLLw1zK4qdFE-QaLYg-GjPC3Os4pacsFCUfeiNWAGmSQtbntuv2jt9MgKrU0kC4xA2kyalmJ5DRo_oYgXNqLVgzmJL97zFpQMFwJkKEVxkCluQtFXiPQShG4ay2kAltcFuql0YhGwkLck.p8nFqF6kqGL9LndjrQRuMEHPLSKal1PPSZVDrkN73Fg&dib_tag=se&keywords=jall%2Bdigital%2Bcalendar%2Balarm&qid=1771864291&sr=8-4&th=1

- Pillowcases.

- o Assorted Pillowcases- goal of 150-200
 - Variety of Colors Accepted

- Items for Comfort Carts (provided to families when Veteran is actively dying)

- o Tea bags (any brand)
 - <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Lipton-Tea-Bags-Black-Tea-Can-Help-Support-a-Healthy-Heart-100-Black-Tea-Bags-Pack-of-6/10307788?classType=VARIANT&from=/search>
- o Cream and sugar packets (any brand)
 - <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Land-O-Lakes-Mini-Moo-s-Half-And-Half-Creamer-Singles-24-Count/15556066?classType=VARIANT&from=/search>
 - <https://www.walmart.com/ip/C-H-Premium-Pure-Cane-Sugar-Packets-100-Count-1-8-oz/906682311?classType=REGULAR&athbdg=L1600&from=/search>
- o Tissues (any brand)
 - <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Kleenex-Slim-Pack-6-Wallet-Size-Packs-10-White-Tissues-per-Pack-3-Ply-60-Total/17177117694>
- o Assorted snacks, chips, popcorn, etc. (we request individually wrapped). If granola bars are chosen, please consider soft options

- Travel vouchers for hospice patient families.
 - o <https://www.lyft.com/gift>
 - o <https://gifts.uber.com/>

- VISA gift card for \$300- we provide ad-free music to our Veterans in conjunction with live music from our music therapist
 - o One year of YouTube family subscription.

- Handwritten cards of support for family members
 - o https://www.amazon.com/Envelopes-Greeting-Stickers-Birthdays-Occasions/dp/B0DNJH9K6F/ref=sr_1_12_sspa?crid=2OSP2A8NILEHV&dib=eyJ2IjoMSJ9.VXLMZYf30x6eSlxsLv--bp3sPI6_mypXg8Da5TxcGgHH7ggo_a-z1hAjiewazaRh_z_jKfVazjCxSPTzX-yIKNL2VnQ3AqMGwwlI0yaS-kdjLSnRxR8tDMj1Ad1ZJmYF4y5g0TrDRMSsLMUG26oiOBVVTOJo8EkyeHbQGMRL4WTrtg4E9FbvCoBoOY5Lj9Xunt_GB2ggHHajLI9OQ3jMFErfCqick5Ciuo5lv9UMxAycNjhr5aaUyB0_alODdKxR_uXq3yUPOTxfiRL6YMz6nc7nysPvxUmkDErs9DTLxkMU.tD1fV_7yqdi2TXEm3hktoH4hmny3Kv9aWJ1W6KiTa0&dib_tag=se&keywords=blank%2Bcards%2Band%2Benvvelopes&qid=1752259781&srefix=blank%2Bcards%2Caps%2C145&sr=8-12-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9tdGY&th=1

- Adult clothing covers:



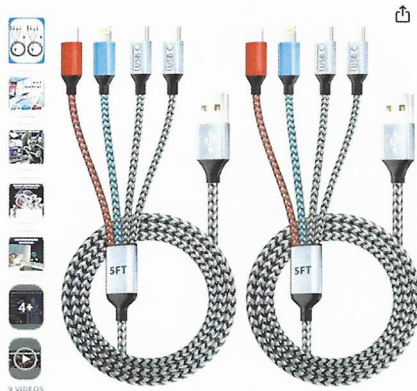
<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Adult-Bibs-for-Men-Women-Pack-of-3-Reusable-Bibs-for-Elderly-Eating-with-Crumb-Catcher-Adjustable-and-Washable/13674551797?classType=REGULAR&athbdg=L1800>

- Search "8 Tablet Charging Station Lock Box" on Amazon



https://www.amazon.com/Metateel-Tablet-Charging-Station-Lock/dp/B0BMDQKTQ6/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dib=eyJ2ljoimSJ9.dEpPiMKTh1ULvIJV8sYyB4L0m_cUqzG7ASGo_n-vtRqAph6Zh2KT2ROpYxQkZIQBCjE9MsiIlyujsQKi51uJ-0UolH9hSkSaF7r2RGapRRNzkNyBhdjPUNGoC2Jt_F1O5DzQ-R6l1VPFmxopjfBsD0uOuBvE6wexMOKgeFZ

- Assorted chargers for phones- many times Veterans arrive without a charger for their phones. We'd like to be able to provide them with connections to family during their stay



https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/B0FJ29LY61/?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_plhdr=t&aaxitk=7f3d2796107450ee68d11ccd66067063&hsa_cr_id=0&qid=1773261456&sr=1-1-9e67e56a-6f64-441f-a281-df67fc737124&ref=sbx_s_sparkle_sbtcd_asin_0_title&pd_rd_w=t3GZq&content-id=amzn1.sym.2fb72bc8-96ef-420d-b08f-c04b69f36507%3Aamzn1.sym.2fb72bc8-96ef-420d-b08f-c04b69f36507&pf_rd_p=2fb72bc8-96ef-420d-b08f-c04b69f36507&pf_rd_r=J3T7E133Z35WBKAD0Q33&pd_rd_wg=7czys&pd_rd_r=567b44d4-71a0-482f-ab49-a17f41d66056&th=1

[View as Webpage](#)



ALA eNEWS: CONNECTING WITH YOU MONTHLY



MARCH 2026

Jot down these webinars to unlock the full potential of your ALA membership

Supporting Military Families

When: March 16 @ 7:30 p.m. ET

This webinar will demonstrate how members can support diverse military families through various activities and community partnerships. Participants will learn practical ideas for recognition, youth support, and collaboration — with Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day highlighted as natural entry points into this community.

Register [here!](#)

KDH2 (Kids of Deployed are Heroes Too)

When: March 31 @ noon ET

Kids of deployed servicemembers carry a unique responsibility — and they deserve to be recognized as heroes too. This webinar will provide practical, step-by-step guidance for implementing the American Legion Auxiliary's KDH2 (Kids of Deployed are Heroes Too) program at the unit level. Participants will gain a clear understanding of program eligibility, learn how to connect with

military families in their community, and walk through planning a meaningful and manageable KDH2 event. Whether you're near a military base or simply want to strengthen your Children & Youth outreach, this session will equip you with tools, ideas, and confidence to celebrate and support the children who serve alongside their families.

Register [here!](#)

Building a Strong Membership Strategy: Engagement, Retention, and Year-Round Planning

When: April 14 @ 7 p.m. ET

Looking for fresh ideas to strengthen membership in your unit beyond “dues time?” In this ALA Academy Live webinar, ALA national membership leaders will share practical strategies to help units engage members year-round, improve retention, and build a welcoming culture focused on mission and connection.


In this session, you'll learn how to:

- Identify key motivation and retention drivers — and why members step away.
- Use mission-based engagement to build loyalty, belonging, and involvement.
- Apply best practices to welcome and retain members across generations and backgrounds.
- Create a simple year-round plan that includes recruitment, engagement, and retention goals.

Go [here](#) to register!

Department chairs, there's an update to awards form submissions

Beginning this year, department chairs may use their awards form as their program report, provided it is submitted by May 15. Forms received by this date will count for both reporting and awards of consideration if indicated on the form. Please note: The awards submission deadline remains June 1, so department submissions received after May 15 will be considered for awards only and will not fulfill reporting requirements.



The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund is a promise that the Auxiliary will continue to mentor, support, and empower young leaders who embody our values.

Give today in honor of National President Pam Ray's fundraising focus.



Help National President Pam Ray continue support of Spirit of Youth scholarship

You can help sustain the legacy of leadership and opportunity. A gift in support of National President Pam Ray's fundraising focus directly funds scholarships for deserving young leaders nationwide and helps ensure the Spirit of Youth continues to inspire future generations. To make your contribution, simply text **SPIRIT** to **1-844-940-3450**. Your generosity strengthens the American Legion Auxiliary's mission and helps prepare the next generation to lead with purpose, compassion, and service.



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
NATIONAL POPPY DAY®

Lace up your running shoes and support National Poppy Day

To honor those who have served and died for the United States, The American Legion Family petitioned Congress for National Poppy Day. Celebrated Friday prior to Memorial Day, the Legion Family honors the sacrifices of our servicemembers and

veterans by wearing a red poppy. The poppy has been recognized and worn by Americans as a symbol of sacrifice since World War I.

National Poppy Day is May 22 this year. Leading up to this significant day, a virtual 5K will happen throughout May to raise awareness and support. Keep a lookout on ALA National Headquarters' social media for more information. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram @ALAforVeterans](#).

To learn more about National Poppy Day, go [here](#).

Don't forget to nominate for ALA Salute to Servicemembers Award

We made it easy to submit for the Salute to Servicemembers Award! An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination to effectively tell the story of why they feel this person is "head and shoulders" above their peers and worthy of this award.

A simple narrative (no more than 1,000 words), a picture of the servicemember (preferably their official military photograph), and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements.

The nomination form is live now, and you have until June 1 to complete. [Click here to fill out the form!](#)

This award acknowledges the servicemember's contributions that go beyond their military career, displaying their impact on their community. The goal is to have every branch of the military represented: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force, along with the National Guard/Reserve.



The ALA Foundation aims to recognize members' dedication

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation once again will recognize outstanding departments with two special honors in 2026. The Donor Champion Award will be presented to the department with the highest per capita giving to the Foundation, while the Veterans Champion Award will recognize the department with the greatest number of approved grants supporting veterans and their families.

Both awards will be determined based on grants awarded and donations received from June 1 through May 31. Departments are encouraged to continue supporting the Foundation's mission and applying for grants that make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans, military, and their families.

USA 250 Challenge still going strong — join the cause!

Join this challenge culminating with America's birthday on July 4. Participants have three areas — fitness, mental wellness, and/or community service — they can engage in as part of a team, like an ALA unit, or as an individual. You can do one category or go the extra mile and do all three!

Register here for \$30 and get a USA 250 American Legion Family T-shirt and donate to a good cause. For more information on ways to fulfill the categories, go to **the USA 250 Challenge website**.

Look at what Auxiliary members are doing for the USA 250 Challenge

Florida member Dara Oliver tackles all three initiatives of the USA 250 Challenge. Read about how she's joining the Legion Family cause by [clicking here](#).

The Shakopee American Legion Post 2 members in Shakopee, Minn., put together 250 back-to-school kits for the USA 250 Challenge. Read more [here](#).

Watch [National President Pam Ray's video](#) for ideas on the community service category.



Special awards are available for fundraising!

To keep the USA 250 momentum going, The American Legion has awards available for those who hit certain fundraising goals with three fundraising tiers:

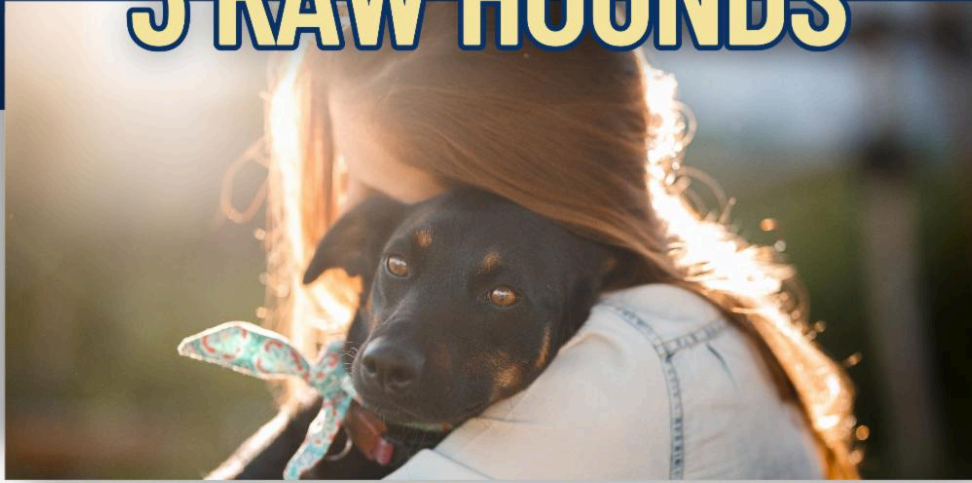
- For \$250 in donations raised, participants receive a USA 250 Challenge hat pin.
- For \$500 in donations raised, participants receive a USA 250 Challenge coin and a personalized certificate of appreciation.
- For \$2,500 in donations raised, participants receive a personalized plaque signed by American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley.

To support donors, the Legion will send a commemorative challenge coin and a special poster to each individual or group (like a unit) that donates \$250 or more to the Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation.

To learn more, click [here](#). Have questions regarding fundraising for the USA 250 Challenge? Click [here](#) to learn more.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Introducing 3 RAW HOUNDS



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Introducing our new ALA member benefit partner: 3 Raw Hounds

Please join us in welcoming 3 Raw Hounds, a family-owned business founded by U.S. Marine Corps veteran Mike and his wife, Julie. Inspired by the health improvements they saw after switching their own dogs to a raw diet, they now offer affordable, human-grade raw food and treats made with USDA-inspected ingredients.

Their mission is simple: helping dogs live healthier, happier lives through wholesome nutrition. ALA members can receive a 10% discount on their purchases by using the code **ALA** at checkout.

Learn more and place your order at www.3rawhounds.com.



American Legion Auxiliary members can save up to 20% with Wyndham Hotels & Resorts! With more than 9,000 hotels across nearly 95 countries, Wyndham has you covered for road trips, beach getaways, airport overnights, and everything in between.

ALA members receive up to 20% off the Best Available Rate at participating Wyndham hotels worldwide. Book online or call 877-670-7088 and mention your ALA member status or use organization code 1000002807. Wherever you're headed, Wyndham is ready to welcome you.

Learn more [here](#).



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8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week

ala.wellcare.com

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If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65, or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

GOOD TO KNOW

News from our friends at ShipThrifty! USPS has announced temporary suspensions of all mailing services to several military ZIP codes until further notice. To learn more and see all the suspended codes, go [here](#).

Missed a webinar? Go to ALA Academy to review recordings and see what other webinars are coming up. Click [here](#)!

Have an idea for an Academy course? Email ALAAcademy@ALAforVeterans.org to send your ideas for potential courses.



ALA COMMITTEE FACEBOOK GROUPS ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION

These national committee groups are spaces on the social media platform for ALA members to discuss or share ideas about topics related to each committee. Groups provide a safe place for organic discussion about your local programs or services and support efforts to grow our organization's awareness. Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org/social-media to join the groups you're passionate about.

ON THE ALA BLOG

ALA ideas for connecting to homeschool groups in your area

A sometimes forgotten sector of the education world revolves around homeschooling, and how to reach homeschooled students to inform them about ALA scholarships and other programs in which they could participate.

[Read more](#)



Juniors learn the Pledge in another language

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members attending the national Junior meetings across the country have learned the Pledge of Allegiance in American Sign Language (ASL).

[Read more](#)



SAVE THE DATE



- March 13: National K9 Veterans Day
- March 15: The American Legion's birthday
- March 15: Buddy Checks
- March 18: National Supreme Sacrifice Day
- March 20: Spring Equinox
- March 25: National Medal of Honor Day
- March 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- April 1: U.S. Air Force Academy Day
- April 5: National Gold Star Spouses Day

April 9: National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

“Service doesn’t end when the uniform comes off — it simply evolves into new ways of giving back.”

— U.S. Air Force veteran Renee Pea

LEGION FAMILY NEWS

The American Legion legislative agenda for the 119th Congress second session is out

American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley testified at a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs on March 4 about the Legion’s agenda. The Legion Family’s priorities this legislative session:

- Veteran suicide prevention: The expansion of community-based outreach and prevention and funding evidence-based mental health treatment.
- Improve care for female veterans: Investing in gender-specific care at the Department of Defense and VA and increasing research on reproductive health.
- The passage of H.R. 1423 — Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025: This bill aims to grant equal access to earned education benefits.
- End veteran homelessness: Increase project-based HUD/VASH vouchers, permanently authorizing Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, and fully funding the Grant Per-Diem program as authorized.
- Promote veteran entrepreneurship: Create opportunities to provide veterans with access to capital and prioritize veteran-owned small businesses in federal contracting.
- Strengthen defense and honor service: Pass FY27 NDAA amendments addressing housing, dining facilities, childcare, spouse employment, and education benefits. Correct an inequity for combat-injured, medically retired veterans by authorizing full concurrent receipt of DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation.

To learn more about the American Legion’s legislative agenda, go [here](#).

To download the legislative agenda brochure, click [here](#).

The American Legion encourages all Legion Family members to reach out to their representatives and senators about these issues.

Go here to find your representatives: [house.gov](https://www.house.gov). Go here to find your senators: [senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov).

Be the One online training available for the Legion Family

The American Legion is partnering with Columbia University to develop training for American Legion Family members who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who are in crisis.

These trainings will teach participants how to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk
- Effectively communicate with individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves

Upcoming dates:

- March 24: 2:30 – 4 p.m.

To register and learn more, click [here!](#)

New Flag & Emblem website

The American Legion Flag & Emblem website has been updated to have real-time imaging while building a uniform cap, self-serve apparel personalization, and category filters to narrow searching. There's also a single-page checkout for easy shipping and payment.

Explore the new features today! Click [here](#).



ALA Membership

Where does your department stand in Auxiliary membership? [Click here to log in and view the latest reports.](#)



The American Legion Legislative Center

The ALA supports the legislative agenda of The American Legion. [Get involved.](#)



American Legion Auxiliary | 3450 Founders Rd | Indianapolis, IN 46268 US

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