



Pam Seelye, 2025-26 Western Division National Security Chair

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, prior to America entering World War II, had the idea of uniting several service groups into one organization. This organization was to help lift the morale of the military and help those at home support them. The organizations that he approached were the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association, and the National Jewish Welfare Board, and this became the United Service Organizations or, as we know it, the USO.

Since 1941, the USO has supported our nation's military and their families as they defend our country and its freedoms. Providing support to our service members as they meet the challenging duties they undertake around the world. The USO principle is "to be always by their side."

The reach of the USO's more than 250 centers extends to countries on every continent, operated by thousands of staff and volunteers whose goals are to match our service members' commitment and provide the best service to those who sacrifice so much for America.

The USO today continues to serve the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families, so they can focus on their very important mission. The USO operates USO centers at or near military installations across the United States and worldwide. USO centers can be found in most of the major airports, providing hospitality for traveling service members and their families, bringing them a little touch of home.

The USO is not part of the federal government, so they do not receive government funding, and they rely on the generosity of individuals, organizations, and corporations to support their activities. Their centers are manned by generous and giving volunteers, giving of their time and energy, giving back to those who continue to serve their country.

Wish to become a volunteer at a USO? Go to [USO.org/volunteer](https://www.uso.org/volunteer). This will lead you to an application process.

*Information sourced from the USO website [USO.org](https://www.uso.org)

Military OneSource: An Essential Resource for Supporting Service Members and Their Families

Submitted by National Security Vice-Chairman Jammie Phillips
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

Military OneSource is not just a website; it is a vital support system for service members, their families, and the leaders and providers who assist them. Whether you are organizing outreach efforts, providing guidance, or simply trying to connect someone with the appropriate resources, this platform makes it easier to help with confidence.

Military OneSource is a program funded by the Department of Defense that provides free, confidential support and resources to the military community. The section for Leaders and Service Providers is specifically tailored for individuals who guide, counsel, and support service members and their families.

Key Resources You Can Use

Here are some of the most helpful tools and materials available:

- **Downloadable Flyers & Infographics:** Topics include deployment readiness, spouse career support, and financial wellness.
- **Orderable Products:** Wallet cards, brochures, and educational materials for distribution at events or meetings.
- **MilProvider App:** Yes, there is an App for that! A mobile tool that lets you access and share resources on the go.

How to Use It in Your National Security Program

Whether you're planning a Unit event, organizing a support group, or preparing a newsletter, Military OneSource can help:

- **Support Families During Deployment:** Share guides that walk families through pre-deployment, active duty, and reintegration phases.
- **Assist with PCS Moves:** Offer checklists and relocation tools to ease transitions.
- **Connect Parents with Resources:** From Sesame Street for Military Families to parenting tips tailored to military life.
- **Promote Education & Career Opportunities:** Help spouses and transitioning service members find scholarships, job training, and career coaching.
- **Provide Confidential Help:** Direct eligible service members or their family to counseling, financial assistance, and crisis support—all confidential and free.

Get Started

Visit <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/> to explore a complete range of resources. You can also call 800-342-9647 for personal assistance. By sharing these resources in your newsletters, meetings, and outreach efforts, you empower our members to support military families with the assistance they deserve.

Supporting Gold Star and Blue Star Families

The American Legion Auxiliary supports families whose servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice. It is important to work with other like-minded organizations to create a greater impact.

Gold Star Mothers is one such organization. In 1928 Grace Darling Seibold along with 24 other women who had lost children in service to our country created American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. to honor their children, heal together, and support veterans and the nation. In 1936, congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day and in 2011 it was changed to include families. Today the last Sunday in September is designated as "Gold Star Mother's and Families Day."

How can we help our Gold Star Families? Make them aware of the Fallen Hero Tree where each November personalized ornaments are placed on trees representing the fallen from the Civil War to current time. They also have a program to send electronic Birthday Cards to children 18 year and younger.

You can find more information at <https://americasgoldstarfamilies.org/>

Blue Star Families was founded by military family members in 2009 to empower these families to thrive as they serve. Connecting military families with their community will help to strengthen them with a greater support system. When we are connected to our neighbors it is easier to reach out if a need arises. It can be as simple as needing a little sugar to finish a recipe or a complex as a water leak. Being a good neighbor, we can help our military family find the

Supporting Gold & Blue Star Families Cont..

repair company needed. There is a comfort of safety when you know your neighbors and watch out for each other.

Blue Star Families have programs to assist military families through the many moves they experience. We can offer to host one of the Blue Star Family activities in our post home. We are good at volunteering and that is sometimes all that is needed to provide a successful program for the military family. Google Blue Star Families to find other ways to assist.

*Respectfully submitted by
Norma Tramm
ALA 2025-26 National Security Chairman*



Salute to Servicemember of the Year Award Informational Zoom

Join us for an informational Zoom meeting about the **Salute to Servicemembers of the Year Award**. This is a chance to learn how we honor outstanding service and how **YOU** can be part of the nomination process.

Date: February 3, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM EST

Open to Everyone!

Whether you have already selected your nominee, are planning to nominate a service member, or are simply curious about the award, this meeting is your chance to get all your questions answered.

Register here:

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

National Security Resources

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

**EMBRACE THE
SPIRIT OF
SERVICE -
VOLUNTEER
WITH THE
USO TODAY!**

At the USO, our focus is on people—those currently serving in the U.S. military and their families. Your time, compassion and dedication can make a profound difference in their lives. Join us in creating meaningful connections and unforgettable moments that bring joy to their days, uplift their spirits, and strengthen their well-being.



READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Visit USO.org/Volunteer