

American Legion Auxiliary – Chaplain End-of-Year Report 2025 – 2026, Department of Arizona, Chaplain DeDe Dexter

Reporting Year: 2025 – 2026

Unit participation in End of Year Reporting: 53%

District participation in End of Year Reporting: see below

District 1: 33%

District 2: 50%

District 3: 50%

District 4: 16%

District 5: 75%

District 6: 50%

District 7: 33%

District 8: 100%

District 11: 70%

District 12: 61%

1. Overview Of Chaplain Activities

This year, the Unit Chaplains provided consistent spiritual support ensuring proper ceremonial observance and offered compassion outreach to members, veterans, and their families. The chaplaincy focused on remembrance, comfort, and strengthening the spiritual foundation of the units reporting.

2. Prayers and Devotions

- Invocation and Benedictions were offered at **99%** of the units reporting.
- Grace at Meals was provided dinners, potlucks and/or celebrations.

3. Spiritual Outreach and Care

- **32 Units** provided spiritual counseling and support to unit members and their families.
- **48** Charter Drappings ceremonies were completed.
- **All** units Reported names of members who were ill at meetings.
- **182** ill members and/or veterans were visited in nursing homes and/or hospital.
- **1326** Get Well Cards sent.
- **215** Sympathy Cards sent.
- **605** Thinking of You/Joy Cards sent.
- **624** Phone calls, text or emails sent.
- **429** Birthday Cards sent.
- **86** Memorial Service/Funerals (COL) were attended.

- **13** Units participated in Initiation of New Members Ceremony with 186 new members initiated.
- **15** Units participated in Four Chaplain Ceremony.
- **18** Units participated in Wreath's Across America
 - Donations? Y/N
 - Placed Wreaths? Y/N
 - Picked up Wreaths? Y/N
- **11** Units prepared a Prayer Book for the Unit President
- **3** Units participated in the ALA Arizona Chaplain Circle

Department Chaplain Activities:

The Department Chaplain maintained regular contact with members experiencing illness, grief, or hardship, offering prayer, encouragement and presence. The chaplain ensured all ceremonies were conducted with dignity and respect, honoring veterans and Auxiliary Traditions. The Chaplain continued to uphold the ALA mission by providing spiritual care rooted in service, respect, and love for God and Country.

- **152** ill members and/or veterans were visited in nursing homes and/or hospitals.
- **66** Get Well Cards sent.
- **42** Sympathy Cards sent.
- **252** Thinking of You/Joy Cards sent.
- **1017** Phone calls, text or emails sent.
- **12** Memorial Service/Funerals (COL) were attended.
- **36** Birthday Cards sent.
- Invocation and Benedictions were offered at Fall Conference, DEC meetings and will be done at convention, and Innovation offered an Post/Unit 62 Awards dinner; Invocation offered at National President's Arizona visit dinner at Post 109.

Recommendations for Next Year

- Increase communication with new members to build stronger spiritual connections
- Expand card-sending and outreach efforts to include more community partners
- Increase awareness on monthly bulletins on department's website. Only 3 units reported they joined the ALA Arizona Chaplain Circle. This was in most monthly bulletins' asking Unit Chaplains to join the circle and a display was used at the Fall Conference.
- Only 53% of Unit Chaplains provided a report this year. Chaplain called all the units not reporting and 5 of those units had no idea what the Chaplain was talking about. Reporting????
- Chaplain received (four) 4 Sharon Alley Service to God and Country Narratives.
- Attended three (3) Quarterly Chaplain Zoom calls with National Chaplain Nancy Maggins

Thank you for adding the Chaplain and Historian information to the 2026 – 2027 Unit Officers form. This will help in keeping in contact with the required officers.