

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

July 6, 2025

Dear American Legion Auxiliary Members,

Greetings! As most of you know, I am the chairman for the ALA Gift Shop at the Prescott VA. The purpose of this letter is to ask for your support for this worthwhile and heart-warming event. We will probably never go back to a traditional gift shop that most of us remember, but that doesn't mean that we cannot provide a meaningful event for our Veterans.

The Veterans in our Domiciliary absolutely love receiving a quality backpack. This past Christmas we set up an event where the Veterans received their backpack and were able to stuff it with their choice of many items that included a fleece throw, variety of edible treats, and other miscellaneous items. This was done at a party with a live band and plenty of holiday refreshments. Veterans were so grateful for the items, party and time spent together.

Veterans in the Community Living Center received a gift of flannel shirts and a gift bag with edible treats, puzzle books and other items. This was done through a holiday party and personal visits to each Veteran where they were given holiday treats and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa. This approach touched all our hearts as many Veterans expressed their appreciation with smiles and tears.

Both units continue to increase their census. This year I am planning for 120 in the Domiciliary and 70 in the Community Living Center. I have found that the average price for individual gifts is about \$35.00 each or \$6,650. In addition, it is so nice to offer the Veterans their choice of a nice warm fleece throw or homemade quilt.

Your donation of money should be made payable to ALA Department with a note specifying "Whipple Gift Shop". Their address is: ALA Department of AZ, 4701 North 19th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85015. Donations of fleece throws or handmade quilts are also welcome; please be sure that they are at least 50x70 inches to accommodate our taller Veterans. These can be dropped off at VA Building 15 (marked for ALA Gift Shop) or brought to the Department Fall Conference or District Meeting. If you choose to mail them, my address is: Trish Aljets (ALA), 7132 North Viewscape Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ 86315.

Thank you for considering this request. Should you have any questions, or your members would like to participate in the holiday parties at the Prescott VA, please feel free to contact me at 928-632-2290 or trishaljets@outlook.com.

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