



2019-2020 Program Action Plan **NATIONAL SECURITY**

<p>Chairman Nancy O'Leary charles.oleary@reagan.com</p>

What is this program and why do we have it?

The National Security Program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families.

Where does the Unit get suggestions to help?

The ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide (available online at alaforveterans.org) is a great resource for programs available in a range of areas, including emergency financial relief, education, employment and transition, financial services, health, legal assistance, morale and youth development, peer support and service coordination. This guide also explains how to locate service members needing assistance, helps Auxiliary members report their impact, summarizes basic military structure, function and defines many military-specific terminology. Also listed in the guide are government resources and services available to military servicemembers and their families.

Operation Homefront

Operation Homefront is a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide emergency financial and other assistance to families of our service members and wounded warriors. The majority of its clients are the lowest paid service members, E-1 through E-6 enlisted ranks. More information can be found at www.OperationHomefront.net.

What is the Blue Star Banner Program?

The Blue Star Banner Program is a reminder that war touches every neighborhood. The Blue Star Banners are available through The American Legion National Emblem Sales. A banner is flown when a family has a member serving. A banner can have up to 5 stars. If an individual is killed or dies, a smaller gold star is placed over a blue star. Presenting a family with a Blue Star Banner is a way of recognizing that family and the service of their family member.

POW/MIA Program

The American Legion Family is dedicated to ensuring that Americas POW/MIAs are honored and recognized. Legion efforts focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. An important way all Legion family members create awareness and remembrance for this initiative is through conduction POW/MIA remembrance services at unit



meetings and public events. Information on the proper way to conduct a ceremony is available in the Book of Ceremonies available at the ALA website.

Award Program

Most Outstanding National Security Program Award per division must be postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST June 1, 2020. Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.

Reports

Mid-Year reports are due December 21, 2019. Year-End reports are due May 1, 2020. Reports are to be in narrative form. Just tell what you have done to help a military family, recognize a family with a serving family member or honor and recognize our POW/MIAs.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity. Always Faithful, Nancy O'Leary

Special 100th Anniversary History Program Facts:

In 1924, Mrs. O.D. Oliphant (New Jersey) was elected National President. Under her leadership, the first Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense was held in Washington, D.C. in February 1925.

While in 1942, Mrs. Alfred J. Mathebat (California) was elected National President. Wartime rationing and travel restrictions continued to affect every American, including Auxiliary members, forcing cancellation of the Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense. National President Mrs. Rae Ashton (Utah), chaired the first Women's Forum on National Security, in January 1953, in Washington D.C. First Lady Mamie Eisenhower and Mrs. Pat Nixon, wife of the vice president, hosted the forum at the White House.

In 1973, with the still active Vietnam War, two Resolutions were passed by the delegates to the National Convention. One to continue support of the National League of Families and one to declare Memorial Day 1974 as a day to shout to Congress to "Get Our Men Home". In 1981, the American Legion Auxiliary Awareness Assembly held in Washington, D.C., replaces the Women's Forum on National Security.

In 1988, the National Security Committee Chairman, Linda Boone, reported that units and departments efforts raised and donated a total of \$108,400 for National President Alice Galka's special project, the USO.

The National Security Committee has remained continuous with the program. In 2015, the new ALA Military Readiness Action Guide was launched and provided members with valuable online resource to assist in locating services for active-duty, reservists, and National Guard members.