



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

What Is the Salute to Servicemembers Award?

- **National award honoring one enlisted servicemember (E1–E9) from each branch.**
- **Seven awards total: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, National Guard/Reserve.**
- **Recognizes excellence in military service and community service.**

1

The Salute to Servicemembers Award is a national honor presented annually to one enlisted servicemember, from ranks E1 to E9, in each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. In total, there are seven awards. We hope this will be the year we recognize a representative from every branch, including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserve.

These honorees represent the very best of military excellence and community service. They embody our mission of Service, Not Self.



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Who Can Nominate?

Any ALA Member, Unit, or Department!

No Department approval required!

No need to wait for convention!

Simply tell the nominee's story!

2

One of the most empowering parts of this program is that any ALA Member, Unit or Department can submit a nomination.

You don't need Department approval.

You don't need to wait for convention.

You simply need to tell the servicemember's story.

This open process helps us reach more deserving nominees across the country.



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What's Required?



Online Nomination Form



Narrative up to 1,000 words describing military and community service.



Photo of the servicemember (preferably in uniform).



Endorsement from someone in their command group.

3

A complete nomination includes **four simple components**:

First, your online nomination form.

Second, a narrative — up to 1,000 words — describing the servicemember's military achievements and their community service.

Third, a photo of the nominee in UNIFORM, preferably an official DoD photo.

And fourth, an endorsement from someone in their command group.



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Nomination Form

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>

Name of person making this nomination*

First Name Last Name

Email of person making this nomination*

Phone Number of person making this nomination*

ALA Department of nominating unit *

Nominating unit name and number *

Servicemember's Name*

First Name Last Name

Servicemember's Email*

Servicemember's Phone Number*

Servicemember's Branch of Service (Branch of service includes reservists who have been on active-duty orders within the last 24 months): *

U.S. Coast Guard
 U.S. Air Force
 U.S. Army
 U.S. Navy
 U.S. Marine Corps
 U.S. Space Force
 National Guard

Servicemember's Pay Grade*

Servicemember's Rank*

Please upload a picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph).*



Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)

Max file size: 10 MB

Is the servicemember able to attend ALA National Convention? *

YES NO

Is the servicemember comfortable with public speaking? *

YES NO

Please upload your written nomination. *



Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)

Max file size: 10 MB

Please upload the endorsement from a member of their command group. *



Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)

Max file size: 10 MB

[Save and Resume Later](#)

Submit Form

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All nominations must be submitted online using the official ALA nomination form. This form allows you to upload the narrative, photo, and endorsement directly. The Nomination form may be accessed in the American Legion Auxiliary Membership Portal by logging in and navigating to: Committees, then Awards and Reporting, and Salute to Servicemembers. You will then select the Blue Nomination Form box at the top of the page.

If you haven't used the form before, you'll find it very user-friendly. If you need assistance, the National Security Committee is here to support you.



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Example Narrative: Share their stories of service and community impact!

From:
XYZ Unit 00
Anywhere, United States

Subject: Nomination of Sergeant (E5) John Jacob, United States Army – Infantry
For: American Legion Auxiliary Salute to Servicemembers Award

To the American Legion Auxiliary National Security Committee,

On behalf of XYZ Unit 00 in Anywhere, United States, it is our honor to nominate Sergeant John Jacob, United States Army, for the prestigious Salute to Servicemembers Award. Sgt. Jacob exemplifies the highest ideals of military service, personal integrity, and community commitment. His dedication to both his country and his neighbors makes him an outstanding candidate for this national recognition.

Sgt. Jacob currently serves as an Infantryman in the United States Army, where he has distinguished himself through exceptional leadership, discipline, and professionalism. As an E5, he is known for his reliability, tactical expertise, and unwavering commitment to the welfare and development of the soldiers under his guidance. His chain of command consistently praises his ability to lead by example, maintain mission readiness, and uphold the Army values in every aspect of his service.

What truly sets Sgt. Jacob apart is the way he continues to serve even when he is off duty. His sense of duty extends far beyond the uniform. Sgt. Jacob volunteers regularly at the VA Hospital in Little Rock, where he provides companionship, support, and encouragement to Veterans receiving care. Whether assisting with mobility, offering a listening ear, or helping with recreational activities, he brings compassion and respect to every interaction.

In addition to his work with Veterans, Sgt. Jacob is deeply committed to supporting the next generation. He serves as a mentor at the local Boys Club, where he guides young people through challenges, encourages positive decision-making, and models the values of responsibility, perseverance, and service. His presence has made a measurable impact on the youth he mentors, many of whom look to him as a steady and inspiring role model.

Sgt. Jacob embodies the spirit of Service, Not Self. His dedication to his country, his compassion for Veterans, and his commitment to uplifting young people in his community reflect the very heart of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission. We are proud to present him as our nominee and believe he represents the best of today's enlisted service members.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination. XYZ Unit 00 is honored to support Sgt. John Jacob for the 2026 Salute to Servicemembers Award.

Respectfully submitted,
XYZ Unit 00
American Legion Auxiliary
Anywhere, United States

The narrative is the heart of the nomination.

This is where you tell the servicemember's story — their service, their impact, their heart for their community.

Share specific examples, highlight their dedication, and help the committee understand why this individual stands out among their peers.



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Example Photo's



A clear and professional photo is essential for the review committee to connect a face with the story. The service member must be in uniform, and it is preferred that the photo is an official Department of Defense (DOD) photo.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY 39TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
123 MISSOURI AVE.
CAMP ROBINSON, ARKANSAS



AHRC-PDC-A

11 JAN 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Sergeant John Jacob Endorsement Letter

XYV Unit 00
Anywhere, United States

Dear Unit 00,

Your request of me to provide a letter of endorsement for Sergeant John Jacob is not unexpected. Sgt Jacob has been performing his duties in an exemplary manner, which has been noticed by his superiors and the officers of this Division. He routinely, consistently, and successfully leads by example. What sets him apart is his early mastery of tactical expertise, his impressive style of leadership, and his ability to motivate and efficiently train his soldiers.

Sgt Jacob has an exceptional willingness to take on additional duties and responsibilities. His single-handed development of Unit-Team Procedures for Rapid Mobilization was instrumental in core skill training of three deploying teams mobilized to support infantry operations during the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine (JMTG-U) in Germany. His procedure decreased 15 days from the allotted training schedule.

When John is not on duty, he is involved in his community. I am impressed by his time volunteering at the VA Hospital and working with youth at the local Boys Club. I have received multiple phone calls and letters of gratitude from these and other agencies describing his involvement and compassion. They describe him as inspiring and motivating, challenging others to be their very best.

It is with great confidence and integrity that I endorse and recommend Sergeant John Jacob for the Salute to Servicemembers Award offered and provided by the American Legion Auxiliary. Distinguishment of this caliber is well deserved and undoubtedly will inspire his peers to strive towards excellence.

Should you need further information, please contact my office at 501-867-5409 or 39cmd_pdc@army.gov.

Sincerely,



John A. Smith
Lt Col, U.S. Army
Commanding

Example Endorsement

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The endorsement letter should provide concise, yet comprehensive confirmation of the nominee's character, performance, and leadership qualities as observed from their command. Endorsements are routine in the military, so nominees can easily obtain them through their chain of command.

The Endorsement and the Photo are two areas in the process where you will need to rely on the nominee for assistance in acquiring. The servicemember will know their command chain and how to facilitate a request for a letter of endorsement. You may need to provide them with information on the award, such as its purpose and background.



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Deadline & Goals



Deadline: June 1, 2026



Goal: At least one
nomination from every
Department!



Aim for representation
from all branches,
including Space Force!

8

The deadline for submissions is **June 1, 2026**.

Our goals this year are ambitious:

We want **at least one nomination from every Department**, representation from all seven branches, and — for the first time ever — a nomination from the **United States Space Force**.

With your help, we can make that happen.



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Recognition & Call to Action

Recipients honored at the 2026 ALA National Convention in Louisville, KY.

Honorees will be invited to speak to the general assembly.

Remember to identify servicemembers who serve with heart and humility.

Reach out to members and communities; everybody knows someone who serves in the military.

Begin drafting nominations now!

Help us secure the first-ever Space Force nomination!

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Recipients of the Salute to Servicemembers Award are honored at the **American Legion Auxiliary's National Convention**. This year's National Convention will be held in Louisville, KY. August 28th – September 3rd.

Honorees are invited to attend as guests, recognized on stage, and given the opportunity to speak to the general assembly.

It's a moment of pride for them, their families, and for all of us who support their service.

Furthermore, the American Legion Auxiliary understands commitment to service and obligations that may prevent the service member from attending the convention do not exclude them from consideration for this award.

So here's the call to action:

Think about the servicemembers you know.

Reach out to your members and communities.

Start drafting those nominations now.

Let's make sure these heroes receive the recognition they deserve — and let's secure that first-ever Space Force nomination.



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Questions & Thank You!

NationalSecurity@ALAforVeterans.org



DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2026

