



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION  
DECEMBER 2024 BULLETIN



Happy Holidays to One and All!

As we take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments for veterans so far this year let's make note of some things that the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program can focus on in the coming year to ensure that California has the volunteer resources needed for a successful program.

Auxiliary members can volunteer in many different ways in any of the various committees within the ALA organization. The VA&R program governs two categories of Auxiliary volunteers: Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers and Service to Veterans volunteers. While the goal of both programs remains the same, there are many differences in how those goals are reached. The most significant difference between the two programs pertains to where the service takes place, and how volunteers are recognized for that service.

The biggest challenge the Auxiliary faces is our approach to meeting the needs of a multigenerational volunteer force. Think about how we appeal to several generations of potential volunteers and how each of those generations with their own mindset and value system can be embraced in volunteer service.

- Be welcoming to all, regardless of the volunteer's American Legion Auxiliary membership status.
- Look for opportunities to mentor other volunteers - all of us have unique talents and skills that can be successfully utilized.
- Pair personal and professional talents with interesting volunteer opportunities.
- Provide opportunities where volunteers can grow personally and professionally.
- Identify challenging assignments where volunteers can see quick results.
- Make use of technology whenever possible and ask for help if you need it.

The Department of California Auxiliary needs volunteers for both VAVS and Service to Veterans. Interested members should contact me for information on how and where you can volunteer.

In closing, remember that **all District mid-year reports are due to Department Chairmen no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>**. The VA&R District Mid-Year Report form will be found on the Department website under VA&R.

### 2024 December Military Dates to Remember

<b>December 1</b>	<b>Civil Air Patrol Day</b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>#Giving Tuesday</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</b>
<b>December 13</b>	<b>U. S. National Guard Birthday</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>National Wreaths Across America Day</b>

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