



American Legion
Auxiliary

The Auxiliary News Hub

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

Purposes

In fulfillment of our mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, military, and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarship and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To increase our capacity to deliver our mission by providing volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service, Not Self



**Time to pack your suitcase and
head over to the**

**Annual
Department of California
Convention**

**June 23—26
Visalia**

2021-2022 Board Room

President	Dee Ann Graham
Vice President	Gloria Williams
Secretary	Liz Doidge
Treasurer	Susie Tozier
Chaplain	Grace Huston
Historian	Jean Cooley Demeules
Parliamentarian	Anita Biggs
Srgt-at-Arms	Karen Herrera
Asst. Srgt.	Rochelle Billet-Smith
Finance	Linda Workman
	Cathalenne McCoy
	Katherine Tellyer
NEC	Joan Cannon
NEC Alt.	Kathie Martinez
Advisory	Susie Tozier
	Loretta Marsh
	Joan Cannon

2021-2022 Surf City Businesses

Americanism	M. O'Brien-Sacco
Aux. Emergency	Valerie Hill
Children & Youth	Tamra Duron
Community Service	Cyd Kintzer
Constitution/Bylaws	Gloria Williams
Convention Chm.	Genieca Riser
Convention Co-Chair	Gloria Sinopoli
Conv. Com. Chair	Anita Biggs
Conv. Com. 2 Years	Linda Fercho
Credentials	Debra Hurado
Distinguished Guest	Linda Fercho
Editor	Nancy Heinisch
Education	Robin Falkenburg
Elections	Kathy Newlen Quiver
Girls State Advisor	Nancy Brown-Park
Girls State Chairman	Allyn Kau
Girls State Director	Tammy Sollazzo
Girls S. Asst. Director	Sherry Core
Girls State 3 Year	Jan Fletcher
Girls State 2 Year	Maggie Alherne
Girls State 1 Year	Caitlin Voss
Girls State Nurse	Elizabeth Tomlin
Girls State Pres. Alt.	Karen Herrera
Girls State VP Alt.	Kim MacKinney
Junior Activities	Ann Philcox
Junior Conf. Director	Jackie Cleveland
Junior Conf. 2 Year	Bernice Brown
Junior Conf. 1 Year	Valerie Hill
Nurse	Ann Sanchez
Leadership	Tracey Varnell-Fercho
Legislative	Kathie Martinez
Membership	Susan Baker
Music	Donna Smith
National Security	Vicky Bean
Past Presidents	Loretta Marsh
Poppy	Linda Hayes
Public Relations	Patricia Galatiota
Resolutions	Cece Harvey
Rules	Sharon Moore
Veterans Affairs	Glenda Schultz
Ways and Means	Marion Rocha
Ways and Means Com.	Terry Olaray
Ways and Means Com.	Tami Wilkenburg
Webmaster	Rebecca Glenn

President's Corner

Did You Catch the Wave?



This is your last opportunity to experience catching a “WAVE”. It’s been a superb year for our organization working for our veterans, our military currently serving our nation, and our community.

I want to extend a special note of gratitude to the amazing Auxiliary members of this exceptional department for allowing me to serve as your Department President. My visitations allowed me to share information, ideas and revitalize friendships; I will cherish these memories in my heart forever.

I encourage every member to be optimistic. The future of our organization depends on our ability to change like the tide and revel in the journey.

God bless our veterans and our military, so we can continue to live in the land of the free and home of the brave!

*Dee Ann Graham
America Legion Auxiliary Department President*

The Auxiliary News Hub is the official publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California.

Deadline for the August / September issue is July 24.

Editor reserves the right to edit any submission for the purpose of publication. Please email all articles, photos, suggestions and (gentle) criticisms to Editor Nancy Heinisch nancyheinisch@att.net.

Proper Parliamentary Procedure and Practices

Department Parliamentarian Anita Biggs helps answer your most perplexing questions



How do you deal with an officer who quits, returns, and quits again?

My stock answer for an officer who resigns is to accept the resignation. If you can get the resignation in writing, that is a plus.

What is the rationale of accepting the person who resigns back as a trusted officer? If it makes sense, you could reconsider the person; however you must take everything into perspective.



2022 California Primaries

All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the June 7, 2022, Primary Election.

The last day to register to vote for the June 7, 2022, Primary Election is May 23, 2022.

Your county elections office will begin mailing ballots by May 9, 2022.

Your primary Election ballot will include candidates for U.S. Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Member of State Board of Equalization, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, U.S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Assembly Member, as well as other local candidates.

There are two contests for U.S. Senate on this ballot. You can vote for both contests.

- One for a 6-year term ending January 3, 2029; and
- One for the remainder of the current term ending January 3, 2023

Return your vote-by-mail ballot by mail with prepaid postage as long as it's postmarked on or before Election day and received by June 14, 2022, or in-person to a secure ballot drop box, to a voting location or your county elections office by 8:00 p.m. on June 7, 2022.

In-person voting locations will offer voter registration, replacement ballots, accessible voting machines, and language assistance to those who need it.

Vote centers open in all Voter's Choice Act counties on May 28, 2022.

www.sos.ca.gov/elections



Want to Find Some Money In Your Unit's Stocking?

Apply for an ALA Foundation Grant

As an Auxiliary member, you are in a unique position to understand the needs of your local veteran and military community. That is why **YOU** have such an important part to play in the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veteran Projects Fund.

Veteran Projects Fund grants are awarded in amounts of up to \$10,000, and an ALA entity must provide at least a 20% match of the granted amount. For more information about the types of projects that are eligible, please visit alafoundation.org/grants/.

Lauralee Gooch, ALA Foundation Board Member

The following is a story that was shared with me. I am sure you will find it as heart-warming as I did.

Linda Hayes, Department Poppy Chair

Calming Mental Health Triggers: A Mother & Daughter Poppy Story

When the world shut down in 2020, causing all the changes that we endured and all the lives lost, it took a toll on my mental health and depression. I started counseling with my Pastor.

In 2021, the pandemic didn't get any better and it started to cause a strain on my marriage to the point where my husband and I stepped back from our positions at church as Marriage Ministry Coordinators.

Then in the same year, I caught the virus in July (fully vaccinated in April) and now have lingering effects of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

Those lingering effects triggered my anxiety to extreme high levels which I hadn't experienced since I was in junior high school. Along with other factors in my life, my anxiety came to a breaking point in early March 2022.

I was now experiencing frightening feelings even with just ordinary conversations that would cause me to burst into tears.

This included conversations with my Mommie. Mommie celebrated her 81st birthday in November 2021. In 2011 she was diagnosed with dementia and depression.

I'm her 24/7 caregiver. I took custody of her after Daddy died in 2014.

With her dementia and depression, I always need to strike up a conversation to get her talking and socializing with others. Now, with her seeing me often crying, I noticed her always checking in on me and asking if I was okay. I couldn't let her do that, especially with her suffering dementia.



I prayed and asked God to help me because I didn't want to cause Mommie's triggers of depression when she remembers she has dementia. She would worry herself into an unhealthy place, mentally and physically.

At this time, I was emotionally depressed due to another death in our family and it was about a month later when I cried myself to sleep one night.

That is when I remembered at our District meeting speaking with our Poppy Lady and asking her if I could make some poppies to see if Mommie and I would enjoy doing them together. Our Poppy Lady gave us several to keep us busy.

The next morning I found the container with the items to make the poppies. Mommie and I spent the first day making them and completed one hundred of them. It was wonderful because Mommie was asking about the ALA organization.

We finished our last batch while having a yard sale at home. While working on the poppies in our rocking chairs, my husband, a 20-year Navy veteran, came out to take a few pictures.

Needless to say, we finished all the poppies in happy tears. They were the most refreshing memories with Mommie doing poppies and fellowshiping with one another during those five weeks. It was like time stood still and life came back into both of us.

It's amazing how making a poppy flower can be so meaningful and therapeutic, especially to calm triggers due to mental health illnesses.



Moving Forward: Juniors are the Future!

Look what our Juniors were able to accomplish:

- They performed 1186 hours of service
- They supplied service to 685 veterans and their families
- They made dozens of cookies and cards for hospitalized veterans
- One Unit's juniors made Valentines, Christmas Gifts and Schools supplies for the families at Fort Irwin
- One Junior completed the Gold Patch Program and two completed the Red Patch Program
- Several Juniors started the Patch Program
- Two were awarded patches at Mission Training in Las Vegas
- Juniors also helped members navigate the internet

If you are interested in starting a Junior Program please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Ann Philcox
Department Junior Activities Chair*



The American Legion Auxiliary Draping of the Charter Ceremony honors Auxiliary members who have recently died.

Celebrating our Dual Members



Marilyn Rideaux

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 252 member Marilyn Rideaux has worn many hats: Past Legion Department Historian, Past Editor of the *Legionnaire*, Past Legion Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Commander's Aide, and Adjutant Los Angeles County Council.

Interesting Facts About 'The Star Spangled Banner'

- Ferdinand Durang gave the first public performance of 'The Star Spangled Banner' in October, 1814.
- 'The Star Spangled Banner' became the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931. It was signed by President Herbert Hoover.
- There are four verses of the song. However, only the first is commonly sung. The fourth is sometimes added on formal occasions.

More information can be found at wanttoknow.com.

*Donna Smith
Department Music Chair*

Gloria Williams: Candidate for ALA-DOC President



Gloria Jean Williams is a dedicated 38 year member of Jackie Robinson Auxiliary Unit 252 in Los Angeles where she was Unit President for two consecutive years. She also served as District 23 President.

Her eligibility is through her late father Isaiah Jenkins (WWI) who is interned at the Los Angeles National Cemetery in West Los Angeles.

She is a proud mother of two adult children, Nut Butterfly and Craig Williams. She has three adult grand children and four great grandchildren. All are members of the American Legion Family.

Gloria is a native of Los Angeles. She graduated from Bishop Conaty High School, and received her BA from Pepperdine University.

After 33 years of service she retired from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors where she was Executive Officer for the Business License Commission.

She has served the Department in the following: Credentials, Legislative, Jr. Conference Committee, Sgt-at-Arms. Jr. Activities, Membership, Community Service, Marshall, Leadership, Americanism, Children & Youth, VA&R, and Constitution & Bylaws.

Gloria is looking forward to serving the Department and expanding our program goals and services to Veterans and communities in California.



Glenda Schultz: Candidate for ALA-DOC Vice President



Glenda joined American Legion Auxiliary Unit 521, District 6, in 2007. Her eligibility is through her brother Harold Schultz, a Vietnam-era US Army veteran. She is very proud of her family's service to our country. Six uncles served in the US Navy during World War II and one in the US Navy during Vietnam.

On the Unit level Glenda has held all major chairmanships. She served five consecutive terms as Unit President. She served four years as District President.

On the Department level Glenda served as Midyear DEC Chairman, Deputy for VA Northern California Health Care System – Mather, Northern California Department Workshop Chairman for five years, Rules Chairman, Americanism Chairman, Community Service Chairman, Children & Youth Chairman and VA&R Chairman.

Glenda moved to Roseville and transferred in 2020 to Unit 169, District 7. She has strongly supported and participated in both Unit 169 and District 7 activities. We have been blessed to have Glenda join us.

After graduating high school, she worked for AT&T and retired as a manager after 25 years of service. Glenda then was a Corporate Escrow Officer for five years. After that she worked for Pacific Group Engineering as a Site Acquisition Specialist.

Glenda has two sons, one grandson and one great grandson, all members of the SAL.

Alyn W. Butler Unit 169 and District 7 proudly endorses Glenda Schultz for the office of American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Vice President for 2022-2023.



In Memoriam: Rhodona Enright

Rhodona Enright was a member of East Pasadena California Unit 280 since 1995. She was known as “Lil Dona” and was quite a presence. You would always know where you stood with Dona and how she felt. Nothing was personal, but she would be quite clear about her opinion.

Dona was Unit President more times than can be remembered. She served the 18th District as President twice. She remained part of the ritual team and served her ALA fellow members honorably.



Photo Judy Evridge

Dona's true passion with the ALA was certainly Girls State. Dona served as Girls State Director for many years and was Girls State Chair for the 18th District many times. Her presence was always felt: tiny but mighty.

Dona will be missed by her Unit, her District, and certainly the Department of California.

Maureen O'Brien-Sacco
Department Americanism Chair

Women's Armed Services Integration Act

After two years of debate in Congress, on June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act (WAC) into law. This law enabled women to serve as permanent, regular members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and recently formed Air Force.



The first Women Veterans Day on June 12, 2018, marked the 70th anniversary of the groundbreaking WAC legislation. This year it will be celebrated on June 12.

In order to celebrate future Women Veterans Days, the National Association of American Veterans suggests the following activities:

- * Post pictures of women veterans throughout your office
- * Share pictures or stories of women veterans on social media
- * Coordinate and/or organize a trip to a local women's veteran's event
- * Write a tribute to a woman veteran
- * Host a tea, brunch or lunch for women veterans in your family, friends, or work place and let them share their stories.

veteran.com

Special Thanks to Madame President

On behalf of All the Soul Surfers (Chaplains) . . . it has been an honor to serve in this capacity for the past year! Thank you for ALL you have done for our organization and our GREAT Veterans and their families.

You are the true advocate for Service, Not Self.

Grace Huston
Department Chaplain

Watch for Resolutions at Convention

Time has flown by fast! I want to thank everyone who supported me.

I am so excited for the end of year Convention. I hope I see you all. If you have any questions about writing resolutions, be sure to ask me.

Don't forget: "Aim for the Stars!"

Cece Harvey
Department Resolutions Chair



CALIFORNIA MEMBERSHIP SURFS ON . . .

Hearty congratulations are in order for the following seventy-three Units to reach Goal – **A Perfect 10** – between January 1, 2022 and the close of Department's books on May 10, 2022:

01 Sequoia Unit 96	18 Abraham Lincoln Unit 241	25 Robert Allen Romo Unit 422
02 Willis Hollenbeck Unit 369	18 West Covina Unit 790	25 Bloomington Unit 497
05 Rio Vista Unit 178	19 Bert S. Crossland Unit 170	26 Redwood City Unit 105
05 San Anselmo Unit 179	19 Montebello Unit 272	26 Coastside Unit 474
05 Tredway Unit 194	19 Hollydale Unit 723	27 Harry V. Bailey Sr. Unit 478
05 Saint Helena Unit 199	20 San Fernando Unit 176	28 San Benito Unit 69
05 Mare Island Navy Yard Unit 550	21 Lynn Mort Unit 200	28 Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589
06 Yolo Unit 77	21 Norco Unit 328	28 Prunedale Unit 593
06 Laguna Elk Grove Unit 233	21 San Geronimo Pass Unit 428	28 Monterey Cypress Unit 694
06 Haggin-Grant Unit 521	21 Owen Coffman Unit 519	29 Santa Ana Unit 131
07 Alyn W. Butler Unit 169	21 Morrison Memorial Unit 574	29 Huntington Beach Unit 133
07 Warren McKeon Unit 587	21 Perris Unit 595	29 Laguna Beach Unit 222
07 Stella Van Dyke Johnson Unit 793	21 Herman Granados Unit 739	29 Laguna Hills Unit 257
12 Mariposa Unit 567	21 Joe Dominguez Unit 742	29 Placentia Unit 277
13 Santa Clara Unit 419	21 Temecula-Murrieta Valley Unit 852	29 Laguna Niguel Unit 281
15 Merle Reed Unit 124	22 Oceanside Unit 146	29 Newport Harbor Unit 291
15 Tehachapi Unit 221	22 Lakiba N. Palmer Unit 310	29 Cypress Unit 295
16 Paso Robles Unit 50	22 Pacific Beach Unit 552	29 Leisure World Unit 327
16 Corporal Marshal N. Braden Unit 56	22 Imperial Beach Unit 820	29 Albert E. Schwab Unit 555
16 San Luis Obispo Unit 66	22 Borrego Springs Unit 853	29 Los Alamitos Unit 716
16 Arroyo Grande Unit 136	24 Hollywood Unit 43	30 Frank Luke Unit 24
16 William "Bill" Proud Unit 211	25 Apple Valley Unit 256	30 Brawley Unit 60
16 Cambria Unit 432	25 Fontana Unit 262	30 Bradley Keffer Unit 138
16 Walter "Ski" Gamulski Unit 482	25 Chino Unit 299	
16 Camarillo Unit 741	25 Richard Arnold Griffith Unit 324	
17 Allied Unit 302	25 Highland Unit 421	

Additionally, kudos to the Membership Chairmen: Districts 1 (Alana Nichols) District 6 (Verlene Castoreno) District 15 (Karen Herrera), District 16 (Tracy Varnell Fercho) District 17 (Teresa Lugo-Nunez), District 21 (Danielle Pantanella), District 24 (Martha Romano), and District 29 (Carol Borgman) for providing oversight, leadership, and encouragement to the Units in their respective districts. These eight Districts also reached Goal by May 10th!

The outstanding work done in membership for the Department of California enabled our state to reach 96.61% of Goal by May 10th and at the time of this writing we rank 13th in nationwide Membership. California will be receiving a "Show Me the Money" cash award in the amount of \$250 from National as a "thank you." We are so close to that magical 100% and you are all encouraged to keep surfin' the Membership wave to make it happen!

In closing, membership is the lifeblood of the American Legion Auxiliary. Without members there is no Auxiliary. This chairman asks you all to remember that success only occurs with teamwork, and there is no "I" in team. By working together as a team, members will keep the Auxiliary membership both strong and viable for future generations to enjoy and experience.

Turning Heads and Catching Waves

Susan Baker
Department Membership Chair

Members Show Creativity in Designing Centerpieces



From left: Department Junior Activities Chair Ann Philcox spray-painted the bottoms and caps of soda bottles. Melody Nightingale (Unit 288) designed planters with cardboard cutouts and lights for installation ceremonies. Geni Leftler (Unit 3) incorporated unique containers for the Four Chaplains Ceremony.

Spotlight on Unit 377 President Rebecca Valdivia

Rebecca joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 2016. Eligibility is through her husband, Vincent Valdivia, US Air Force Vietnam era. She is extremely proud of her family's service: father William Flanders, US Air Force Korean War, son Garrett Timmons, US Navy Chief Warrant Officer (current), granddaughter, Meghan Villalobos, US Navy (current), and grandson Augustine Ochoa, US Army (current).

Rebecca is currently serving as President of Sunland-Tujunga Unit 377. She was Treasurer this past year and a member of the Executive Committee. Rebecca has championed several successful large fund-raising events for her Unit.

Her desire to serve stems from her love and compassion for people of all faiths in every nation. She has had the privilege of travelling the world extensively. She never gets tired of learning about new cultures and seeing first-hand how people's lives are transformed and healed through the power of prayer.

Rebecca believes that her experience as a global missionary, where she cared for, prayed for, and taught others how to become successful by realizing their strengths and God-given identities, has taught her leadership qualities and communication skills.

One of Rebecca's greatest blessings has been seeing abandoned and abused children successfully rescued from the Philippine streets through the love and care of an orphanage where she served as Activities Coordinator.



One of Rebecca's projects: a 30" three dimensional poppy

Rebecca recently retired from a major technology company where she was Global Head of the Learning and Development department. She led a team of 7800 employees in 13 different countries within North America, Asia, the Middle East, and Egypt. Prior to this, she spent 30 years in the telecommunications industry with her last position being Director of National Multilingual call centers. Rebecca was educated at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Beanie Babies Bring Smiles



Each year Operation Gratitude sends care packages to service members deployed around the world. They include one Beanie Baby in every single care package. The babies are a signature item in the care packages because they bring smiles to the faces of deployed troops and help American forces build goodwill around the world.

Once Auxiliary Junior Kristina Seward learned about the service project she knew she had to help!

She hosted a collection drive for new or gently used Beanie Babies and

small plush toys. She collected over 800 stuffed toys earmarked for Operation Gratitude!

This is not her first act of service: she hosted a lemonade stand at a Chamber of Commerce meeting with the proceeds going to AL Post 377. She also organized a Christmas Toy Drive and collected Purple Wagon Big Donations for Shriner's Children Hospital.

Kristina, granddaughter of Legionnaire John Seward and Auxiliary member Rachel Seward, is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 377.

Mahala Beery, District 20 Secretary



Thank you to everyone who contributed to *The American Legion Auxiliary Hub* during Madame President Dee Ann's term:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Rodica Andreesu | Patricia Galatioita |
| Susan Baker | Lauralee Gooch |
| Mahala Beery | Kathie Martinez |
| Desiree Black | Donna Mattson |
| Anita Biggs | Marie Mock |
| Desiree Black | Charlene Nevada |
| Jennifer Campbell | Cindy Newman |
| Michele Chen | Teresa Nunez |
| Denise Conrad | Maureen O-Brien-Sacco |
| Diane DeLashmit | Ann Philcox |
| Jan Eagleson | Clara Pon |
| Elizabeth Estavillo | Glenda Schultz |
| Judy Evridge | Donna Scott |
| Robin Falkenberg | Sandy Seddon-Rice |
| Linda Fercho | Donna Smith |
| Steve Fugate | Grace Solis |
| Rebecca Glenny | Tammy Sollazzo |
| Linda Hayes | Elise Spleiss |
| Cece Harvey | Peggy Toyne |
| Kelly Huff | Rebecca Valdivia |
| Debbie Hurado | Gloria Williams |
| Grace Huston | |



Photo Judy Evridge

According to the U.S. Flag Code: **“The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”**



ALA Welcomes Diversity

A diverse membership brings into the American Legion Auxiliary different perspectives which can help sharpen our shared vision as an organization focused on delivering selfless service to our nation's military heroes and their families, and to our communities.

District 6 Inaugural Armed Forces Day Ball Raises Funds for Operation Wounded Veterans

For decades the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have been known within their own ranks for their tireless work helping veterans at home and overseas in a myriad of different ways.

Dual Legion/Auxiliary member Lara Chan and American Legion District 6 Commander Brian McGuinness



At the ball: ALA Girls State 2021 Delegate Ava Brown and ALA District 6 President Suzanne Winters

decided to bring this work to the forefront by putting on the first annual **Armed Forces Day Ball**.

May 14, 2022 was a special evening of fun and relaxation but with a most important purpose: to raise funds for one of the Legion's signature programs, Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW).

Commander McGuinness honored American Legion Auxiliary District 6 President Suzanne Winters and unit members for their work collecting food and other items for the victims of Northern California's fires in

2021. In the end 60,000 pounds of goods were delivered to all the victims of all the fires.

Douglas Chace, OCW Director of Operations American Legion National Headquarters American Legion, explained the program because, as he put it, "OCW is the best kept secret of the American Legion despite the thousands of veterans whose lives it has impacted.

OCW grants provide items, events and experiences to wounded, ill and injured veterans that no government program would even consider including outings, video games, arts and crafts, televisions, iPads, sporting equipment, winter kits and much more."

Also honored by Chace for their connection to OCW were members of Team River Runner. According to McGuinness, "California's 6th district was instrumental in processing a \$10,000 OCW grant for their program which teaches wounded and disabled veterans how to kayak in order to build strength and confidence. The \$10,000 grant is being used for transportation costs for an upcoming training clinic to be held in Sacramento in late June." For an inspirational four minute video created by volunteers,

visit teamriverrunner.org/.

For more information on Operation Comfort Warriors visit legion.org/operationcomfort

Attendees gained a new appreciation of our wounded, ill, and injured veterans and of those who tirelessly care for them helping them to regain their own physical, emotional and spiritual identity with dignity.

*Elise Spleiss
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 383
Chaplain and
Public Relations Chair*



Photo Judy Evridge

Save the Date! June

Department Convention

- June 06: D-Day
- June 12: Women's Veterans Day
- June 14: Flag Day
Army Birthday
- June 19: Juneteenth
Father's Day
- June 21: First Day of Summer
- June 23: Coast Guard Auxiliary
Birthday
- June 23-26: Department Convention
Visalia
- June 25: Anniversary of the start of the
Korean War (1950)
- June 27: National PTSD Awareness
Day

July

Girls State Month Junior Activities Month

- July 04: Independence Day
- July 25: National Hire a Veteran Day
- July 24: Parents Day
- July 27: Korean War Veterans
Armistice Day (1953)
- July 29: Anniversary of the Army
Chaplain Corps