



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 scholarships 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*



Photo Department of Defense

Thankful Daddy's Home!

2023-2024 Officers

- President Glenda Schultz
- Vice President Linda Hayes
- Secretary Liz Doidge
- Treasurer Katherine Tellyer
- Chaplain Patty Martinez
- Historian Erika Hernandez
- Parliamentarian Anita Biggs
- Srgt-at-Arms Jean McGinnis
- Asst. Srgt. Melise Munroe
- Finance Linda Workman
- Teresa Lugo-Nunez
- Brenda Ternullo
- NEC Kathie Martinez
- NEC Alt. Dee Ann Graham
- Advisory Linda Workman
- Joan Cannon
- Kathie Martinez

President's Message

Glenda Schultz

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



November is Membership Month!

You are an important member of our organization!

The American Legion Auxiliary has a proud heritage of volunteering and as a volunteer member you understand the importance of our programs and activities and the effect they have on our veterans, their families, and our community. The possibilities for us to continue to have an impact is limited only by our creativity, desires and enthusiasm.

I am looking forward to meeting each of you and hearing about your accomplishments when I make my visitations.

Glenda

2023-2024 Chairmen and Committees

- Americanism Cindy Rogers
- Aux. Emergency Mahala Beery
- Children and Youth Maureen O'Brien Sacco
- Community Service Patricia Galatioto
- Constitution/Bylaws Sharon Moore
- Convention Chm. Dee Ann Graham
- Convention Co-Chair Terry Oclary
- Conv. Com. Chair Anita Biggs
- Credentials Madeline Reed
- Distinguished Guest Linda Workman
- Editor Nancy Heinisch
- Education Linda Hayes
- Elections Rebecca Glenn
- Girls State Advisor Nancy Brown-Park
- Girls State Chairman Allyn Kau
- Junior Activities Martha Romano
- Junior Conf. Director Jackie Cleveland
- Leadership Donna Mattox
- Legislative Donna Smith
- Membership Suzanne Winters
- Music Stephanie Huff
- National Security Liz Doidge
- Past Presidents Parley Kathie Martinez
- Poppy Robin Falkenberg
- Public Relations Valerie Hill
- Resolutions Linda Fercho
- Rules Linda Karnstedt
- UD&R Tracy Varnell-Fercho
- Veterans Affairs Susan Baker
- Ways and Means Arlene Smith
- Ways and Means Com. Marcia Munroe
- Webmaster Lyle Workman



The American Legion Auxiliary News Hub is the official publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California. Deadline for the December / January issue is November 22.

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
editor@calegionaux.org

Proper Parliamentary Procedure and Practices

Department Parliamentarian Anita Biggs helps answer your most perplexing questions



ALA Past Department President Diane DeLashmitt confers with Parliamentarian Anita Biggs prior to their conducting a meeting at the Clovis Workshop.

Q How do you handle incorrect minutes?

A If minutes are being read and there is an error or incorrect minutes, a member should raise their hand, be recognized, and state the correction. If the correction is required to make the minutes accurate, upon the completion of reading the minutes, the Chair states “the minutes are approved as corrected”.

If it becomes necessary to correct minutes after they have initially been approved, such correction can be made by means of a motion to “Amend Something Previously Adopted”. The motion to correct would be entered in the minutes of the meeting at which it was considered. If a correction to previously approved minutes is adopted, the secretary does not actually alter the content of the original minutes but may make a marginal notation indicating the correct text or referring to the minutes of the meeting at which the correction was adopted.

Components of the ALA Education Program



One major pathway to success is education. It is important to support education and learning at every stage of life. Education is not just for kids. There is no expiration date to learn and educate ourselves. In fact, it is critical to us, the American Legion Auxiliary members. Don't assume others will do the hard work for you. Take the initiative, never stop learning and share what you learn with others.

Give 10 to Education

It isn't too late, and you can do it all year long.

Watch for upcoming information in Future bulletins.

Poppy Seals

Your purchase of Poppy Seals funds the Education Scholarships. You are strongly encouraged to purchase poppy seals in order to continue funding of our scholarships. A sheet of 100 is only \$2.

Scholarship

Our Education Program is about giving youth the opportunity to continue their education by applying for the scholarships we offer at both the Department and National levels. The Department website will be updated with information about the scholarships. Scholarship applications that need updating will soon be available as well.

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops for Education has a smart phone app for you to download. It scans your receipts and directly sends what you earned to the school of your choice.

Veterans in Schools

Encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms.

National Education Week

National Education Week is always the week before Thanksgiving. This year it will be November 13 through the 17.

Legislation

Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities.

*Linda Hayes
Department Education Chair*

2023-2024 Americanism Essay Contests and Rules

Essay Rules and Titles for Groups I through IV

- Group I - Grades 4 & 5: Why do we honor the flag? Length: 200-300 words, including title**
- Group II - Grades 6 & 7: Why is voting important? Length: 200-300 words, including title**
- Group III - Grades 8 & 9: Who is responsible to keep our Country safe? Length: 250-400 words, including title**
- Group IV - Grades 10, 11, & 12: Is service to our country important? Length: 300-500 words, including title**

Titles must be exactly as specified in the **TITLE** of the essay.

All teachers must be provided with copies of the rules.

Subject to be announced to students and a set time allowed by teachers for research. Essays to be handwritten in ink, in English only, on one side of the paper. Computer generated essays are also accepted. All essays must be written in the classroom under teacher supervision. Students should make copies of the essay submitted.

Each teacher will be asked to have all students in the classroom participate under the established essay contest rules provided by the Unit Chairman.

The student will put his or her name, grade level, teacher's name and the name of his or her school on the back of his or her essay.

The teacher will place all essays in an envelope, seal the envelope and identify on the outside of the envelope the students' names, room numbers, grade level and the name of the school. The teacher will turn the envelope containing all essays in to the school office.

The Unit Chairman will be responsible for picking up and returning the essays.

Quoted material must be enclosed in quotation marks and the student must give a simple bibliography stating source and reference to help the judges differentiate between original and quoted material.



Essay Rules and Titles for Group V (Children with Special Educational Needs)

- Group V - How should the flag be disposed of? Length: 25 words or more, including title**

Titles must be exactly as specified in the **TITLE**.

All teachers must be provided with copies of the rules.

The student will put his or her name, grade level, and teacher's name and the name of his or her school on the back of their essay.

The teacher will place all essays in an envelope, seal the envelope and identify on the outside of the envelope the students' names, room numbers, grade level and the name of the school. The teacher will turn the envelope containing all essays in to the school office.

The Unit Chairman will be responsible for picking up and returning the essays.

Essay deadline date: (First Friday in March) March 8, 2024

Palisades Unit 283 Flag Display

Unit 283 started the flag project in 2021 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11. It was so well received that Unit 283 has continued installing the flags every year in the Pacific Palisades Village Green.

With the assistance of a local Boy Scout Troop, the flags were installed on September 8 and removed on September 12.

The flags are displayed in a prominent part of Pacific Palisades where there are many people walking and driving by and acknowledging the importance of remembering those lost on 9/11.

*Nancy Niles
Unit 283 Treasurer*



Photo Ruth Kahn



Photo Ruth Kahn



Photo Rich Schmitt Photography



Photo Rich Schmitt Photography

Continuing to Serve at Girls State

Clarissa Zuo who was selected to attend Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., served this year as a junior counselor at ALA California Girls State.

This June I had the privilege of serving as a junior counselor for the American Legion Auxiliary's California Girls State.

I had so much fun dressing up for 80's day, announcing election winners, and performing our "JC" skit at the talent show.

But being at Girls State as a junior counselor has also allowed me to see the program in a whole new light. My biggest takeaway is how much effort is put in behind the scenes. All the staff members arrived at least a day before the delegates in order to set up. Throughout the week there was never a dull moment as we ran from one end of campus to the other preparing activities. I never suspected how complex operating Girls

State actually was when I was a delegate. I'm so grateful to everyone who makes running this program look effortless.

During my week of counseling, I also had the opportunity to interact with, advise, and support some of the 454 delegates. Having been in their shoes only a year ago, I was able to personally encourage them to make the most out of their week of learning about civics.

As they created their simulated state government, I was amazed by each of them for the unique experiences and ideas they brought to their discussions. I had engaging conversations with many delegates in my Girls State county (McMahon County) and was proud to watch them graduate and filter out at the end of an incredible week. These fond



Kori Damm (pictured left), the County Counselor for McMahon County, with Clarissa Zuo

memories of being a junior counselor this summer will remain with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary for making Girls State possible, from me and thousands of other alumnae!

Clarissa Zuo

ALA Juniors Rock!



From Junior to Senior

Sunland-Tujunga Unit 377, held its Jr. Graduation ceremony August 6. Kristina Seward (front) is pictured with Rachel Steward, Past President Rebeca Valdivia and Jr. Activities Chair Corri Ramirez.

Mahala Beery, Unit 377 Treasurer



Recognition from the Sons

Rebeca Avila-Hernandez of Unit 299 was awarded a Certificate of Achievement at the National Convention in Charlotte for attending the National Children and Youth Academy and completing the five-star program of the Sons of the American Legion.

Elmer C. Jertberg American Legion Auxiliary Unit 299

JUNIORS FIRST EVER **OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Quarter Mania

Sunday, October 1, 2023

Presale \$25 At Door \$30 (Lunch Included)

Proceeds go to Junior Activities for local "Hero's" Veterans Programs

Elmer C. Jertberg
American Legion Post 299
13759 Central Ave Chino Ca 91710
ATM Available

For Presale Tickets
Call Erika (831) 821-2257
E. Hernandez • ALA299@gmail.com
No Credit Cards

Lunch starts 11:30am

Quarter Mania Starts 1pm

WOW!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Strengthening the Junior Program

On September 6, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 574 hosted its first-ever Junior Auxiliary Girls meeting.

The Legion hall was buzzing with excitement as girls between the ages of 8 and 17, along with their parents, gathered for the inaugural meeting. One of the highlights of the event was a creative craft session where the girls worked together to make cards and care packages for area veterans.

The Junior Auxiliary Girls program aims to not only teach the importance of community service but also develop leadership skills and a sense of responsibility in its young members. The girls will have the opportunity to participate in various service projects, attend educational workshops, and engage in events that promote patriotism and unity.

James Vass, District 21 Secretary



Mad Hatter Tea Party Raises Funds for Cancer

In August ALA Unit 31 organized a community event/fundraiser for the Salinas "Relay For Life". The event raised \$1563.64 for The American Cancer Society.

It was put together with the help of some of the other District 28 units. There were donations of money, time, sandwiches, desserts, decorations, supplies, and tea pots & cups. Working UNITED AS ONE a grand time was had by all in attendance.

The day was spent getting to know each other, taking lots of photos, and making memories. One thing we all had in common that day was that we all have been affected by cancer in our personal lives making the day that much more meaningful.

What a great way for ALA Unit 31 to kick off the new fiscal year - by uniting all the District 28 units and the community!

*Rosemary Barron
President Unit 31*

District 21 Meet & Greet: Strengthening Bonds Amid Changing Leadership

In the heart of Riverside County amidst the ever-changing landscape of leadership in District 21, a remarkable event emerged: the District 21 Meet & Greet. The event, spearheaded by District 21 Auxiliary President Ellen Fedorowski, was designed to unite members, both old and new, in a celebration of camaraderie and family.

Every year District 21 witnesses a shifting of the guard as Officers step into their roles. While District meetings offer some interaction, these entities often conduct separate gatherings, but the Meet & Greet aimed to bring it all together.

With unwavering support from District 21 Legion Commander Richard Chalupnik and District 21 SAL Commander Sandy Loeb, plans began to take shape. The central objective was

clear: to create an atmosphere of togetherness.

President Fedorowski took the lead, with Legion and SAL lending their support. Each organization was tasked

“The District 21 Meet & Greet reinforced the notion that they are . . . a united and unwavering Legion family.”

with notifying their members, and a strict "no-cost" policy was established. Host Post 289 took on no financial responsibility,

making it a challenging feat to produce a District-wide event on a budget of zero.

The success of the District 21 Meet & Greet did not go unnoticed. Visiting District Commanders were so inspired by the event that discussions about replicating a Meet & Greet in their own districts began to circulate. The District 21 Meet & Greet served as a testament to the resilience of the Legion family in the face of challenges. It reinforced the notion that they are more than just a collection of titles; they are a united and unwavering Legion family.

As the night came to a close, the bonds were stronger, and the future looked brighter, with the possibility of more such heartwarming gatherings in the future.

*James Vass
District 21 Secretary*



Grace Huston

Three Members of ALA Unit 249 District 11 received a postcard in the mail asking for support in providing backpacks to local school children. And wow did they respond in a big way! Member Kayla Herman, a local teacher, and her daughter Junior Makenzie Herman along with grandma Marcie Dunn got to work ordering supplies and stuffing backpacks. When they were finished they were able to supply 144 backpacks. Way to go ALA!

Final Honor Flights 2023

The mission of Honor Flight is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. Honor Flights concludes with a Welcome Home Celebration. For information on participating in the Welcome Home Celebrations, contact Sue@Honorflightsandiego.org



Honor Flight East Bay San Francisco Airport

Alaska Airlines, Flight #32
 Departure: October 19, 2023
 Return: October 21, 2023

Honor Flight Los Angeles International Airport

Southwest Airlines Flight #130
 Departure: October 13, 2023
 Return: October 15 Flight #2588

Honor Flight Kern County Meadows Field Airport

Departure: October 16, 2023
 Return: October 18, 2023
 Departure: November 1, 2023
 Return: November 3, 2023

Honor Flight San Diego Airport

Alaska Airlines
 Departure: September 29, 2023
 Return: October 1, 2023 Flight #9677



Honor Flight Central Coast Santa Maria Airport

Departure: October 2, 2023
 Return: October 4, 2023

Wendy Malone
 State Chair Service for Veterans



The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress, 1st Session

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

The leading issue facing the veteran community is suicide. The suicide rate amongst veterans is nearly double that of their civilian counterparts with more than 6,000 veterans losing their lives to suicide annually. It is imperative that we simultaneously destigmatize asking for mental health assistance while increasing access to a variety of services along the mental health continuum. The American Legion encourages Congress to enhance access to alternative therapies, robustly fund VA's suicide prevention outreach budget, and continue to invest in mental health research.

VA Healthcare Modernization

The future of VA healthcare is as a hybrid system consisting of VHA-provided inpatient and outpatient care, telehealth, and community care. Ensuring VA is equipped to meet the unique needs of an increasingly diverse veteran population requires that VA fully leverage all healthcare modalities and ensure a seamless transition between them.

Modernizing electronic health records, veteran centric access standards, and a transparent online scheduling system for both VHA-provided care and community care is essential to ensuring our veterans receive the care they deserve. The means by which VA delivers care may change, but one thing will not: VA should continue to deliver the best care anywhere to our nation's veterans.

Support our Afghan Allies

We have a code in the U.S. military, "no one left behind." For two decades, we fought shoulder-to-shoulder with brave Afghan allies who served with and protected American forces, fighting for the freedom of Afghanistan and its people. We must honor the promises we made as a nation and are duty-bound to fulfill. We must provide genuine and lasting protection to the Afghans who have made it safely to the U.S. and to those who have been left behind. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the legislation that would grant permanent legal status to Afghan refugees and improve the Special Immigrant Visa process for Afghans who served alongside U.S. servicemembers.

PACT Act: Implementation and Oversight

The passage of the SFC Heath Robinson PACT Act in the 117th Congress ensured millions of toxic exposed veterans will now have the access to healthcare and compensation they rightfully deserve. VA estimates that there will be approximately 6 to

7 million new disability claims filed because of eligibility expansion under the PACT Act and anticipates the claims backlog will increase to 450,000 by October of 2023. The efforts put forth by the VBA workforce to reduce claims backlogs in the past have been admirable but substantial backlogs of hundreds of thousands of claims for sustained periods of time is not acceptable. It is imperative that VA fully leverage the resources made available in the PACT Act to assist in the continued modernization of VBA information technology systems as well as the hiring of additional employees to ensure veterans claims are adjudicated in a timely manner. The American Legion urges Congress to provide the necessary oversight and funding to ensure VA has the resources they need to properly implement this legislation.

Concurrent Receipt

Currently, 42,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for retirement pay for their service from DoD, and compensation for service-connected disabilities from VA. However, for retired veterans with a disability rating less than 50%, their VA compensation is deducted from their DoD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this unfair policy of forcing many military retirees to forfeit their retired pay to receive equal amounts of disability compensation. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset, allowing disabled veterans to concurrently receive both their retirement pay and their disability compensation.

Pay the Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out missions vital to our national security, but they are the only military branch working without pay during government shutdowns, due to their status under the Department of Homeland Security. The repeated and common threat of government shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women, and their families. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act, which would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid without delay, even in the case of a government shutdown.

Protect the American Flag

The American Legion urges Congress to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. Additionally, The American Legion urges Congress to pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021 to amend the U.S. Flag Code to codify multiple common

patriotic customs and practices as described in The American Legion Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment.

Pay the Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out missions vital to our national security, but they are the only military branch working without pay during government shutdowns, due to their status under the Department of Homeland Security. The repeated and common threat of government shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women, and their families. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act, which would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid without delay, even in the case of a government shutdown.

Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors

America's veterans are being targeted by predatory actors that seek to profit from an array of benefits that have been rightfully earned by those who have served our nation. From claims companies that charge exorbitant fees for services provided free of charge by veteran service organizations to lawyers vying for billions of dollars set aside for victims of Camp Lejeune water contamination, veterans are met by promises of large pay outs if they will agree to surrender substantial portions of their benefit. Predatory actors often attempt to overwhelm veterans with aggressive marketing tactics and complicated contracts to profit from their benefits. The American Legion urges Congress to oppose any legislation that seeks to elevate the standing of unaccredited predatory claims companies by legitimizing practices that target veterans and impose a cap on legal services provided in association with the Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

GI Bill for Honorable Service

To receive most VA benefits, a veteran's character of discharge or service must be "under honorable conditions." However, education assistance benefits, within the GI Bill, has a requirement that servicemembers receive an "honorable discharge." If the character of service is "general under honorable conditions", the post-9/11 GI Bill remains out of reach for these veterans. The American Legion urges Congress to correct this statutory incongruity by amending U.S. Code to allow access to VA educational assistance to veterans with general under honorable conditions discharges.

Donna Smith
Department Legislative Chair



September: Salute to Service Dogs Month

District 25 honored Working Dogs for Warriors, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, dedicated to helping our nation's warriors by training and donating service dogs to veterans and first responders.

They also honored San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue. Their volunteers save many lives each year during their search and rescue missions in every type of environment.

Tamara Bell, Unit 835 President

Spacing Information for Unit and District Newsletter Editors

How many spaces come after a period?

According to every major style guide in both academic and business writing, one space is recommended after a period or other punctuation mark at the end of a sentence.

Where did the one-space vs. two-spaces rule come from?

The origin of using two spaces between sentences was on typewriters. Double spacing made it easier to see the beginning of new sentences when writing with typewriters. But this practice is no longer needed on computers, which automatically use proportionally spaced fonts.

Grammarly.com



Photo Judy Evridge

Remember those deployed and their families this holiday season.

American Gold Star Mothers

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is an organization of mothers whose sons and daughters served and died while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, or died as a result of such service, or were missing in action.

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The nondenominational, apolitical organization had its genesis during World War I.

Grace Darling Seibold, whose son George was lost in action, is credited with starting the organization.

Seibold began visiting returning servicemen in hospitals in the hope that her son might have been injured and returned to the United States without any identification. While working with those who were so severely injured that they would never resume a normal life, she also reached out to mothers whose sons had lost their lives in military service.

She organized a group of mothers who had also lost a child, and they began providing comfort to each other, while also providing care to veterans confined to hospitals far from their homes. The organization was named after the gold star that families hung in their windows in honor of a deceased veteran.

On June 4, 1928, 25 mothers met in Washington, D.C., to establish American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Their symbol augments service flags.

A blue flag showed that the family had a son/daughter in the service. A gold star, almost covering the blue star, so that just a rim of blue still shows, showed that a child had died in service.

The Gold Star reflected the honor and glory given an individual for his/her supreme sacrifice for his country. The family's devotion and pride in this sacrifice is encompassed in the star, rather than a sense of personal loss, which would be represented by mourning symbols.



In 1936, a Presidential proclamation stated: "Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood in the loss of their sons and daughters in World Wars that the President of the United States is hereby authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the Government officials to display the United States flag on all Government buildings, and the people of the United States to display the flag and to hold appropriate meetings in their homes, churches, or other suitable places, on the last Sunday in September, as public expression of the love, sorrow and reverence of the people of the United States for the American Gold Star Mothers."

The last Sunday in September is designated as "Gold Star Mother's Day." American Gold Star Mothers (AGSM) cannot directly contact those who may be in bereavement because when the military

makes an official death announcement, next of kin are not listed. The military also does not make that information available because of privacy laws.

Some AGSM members watch local papers for stories and will sometimes attend a service and leave a card with contact information so the mother can contact the nonprofit when she is ready.

The AGSM website explains: "We are very low key because we know you have a process to go through and AGSM is not your first priority. Eventually, either through one of our prior contacts, mutual friends, veterans groups or through this website, when you're ready, we hope you will contact us but it really has to be on your schedule."

*Sue Pascoe
Editor Circling the News and
Past President Unit 283*

Chicken Festival Booth Brings in Prospective Members for Fair Oaks Post 383 and Unit 383



Chickens was the theme of the day on September 16 at the 18th annual Fair Oaks Chicken Festival in Fair Oaks.

Hosted by the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District, the festival is a family event giving community non-profits and other organizations and businesses the opportunity to introduce what they do. It's a family affair!

In keeping with this year's theme, "UNITED AS ONE," Unit 383 members had a booth at the event to introduce to the public the important work of the American Legion Family.

Publicity on Facebook helped attract some of the thousands of festival attendees to their booth. Poppies were handed out and \$47 was collected for the poppy fund.

Elise Spleiss

Misque

First I would like to apologize to Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Sharon Moore and to the members attending the Clovis Workshop when I stated that a dues amount needed to be read twice if adding to the Standing Rules.

I should have said that **it requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote** in order to be changed or input into the Standing Rules. I am sure there will be more information forthcoming as some information is missing from the Standing Rules.

*Diane DeLashmit
Past Department President*

BE THE ONE

The American Legion Auxiliary is joining forces with The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion to promote the Be the One mission, which destigmatizes asking for mental health support, provides peer-to-peer support and resources, and educates everyone on how they can Be the One.

How can you Be the One?

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when you think a veteran might be struggling.
- Increase awareness about the veteran and military suicide epidemic.
- Encourage those needing help to call the Veterans Crisis Line at 988.

ALA National Headquarters

Program Engagement Plans

Auxiliary members are busy people when it comes to serving our mission. Unit activities take time to plan, implement, and process. Because of that, we recognize the need for better information to connect the dots. The Programs Engagement Plans give our members instructions and guides, while allowing for flexibility, incorporating local and national ALA priorities. The pages in these plans are for unit members and departments to implement the Auxiliary's mission in their communities. You can access Program Engagement Plans through the My Auxiliary Member Portal on the National Auxiliary website legion-aux.org.

Special Note of Appreciation

Many thanks to Lupe Galaviz (pictured right), her husband Auggie, Rodia Andressu and Susan Morgan of Allied Unit 502 for their generous donations to the Clovis Workshop.



Recognition Day POW/MIA Sacrifice and Service



Photo Sheila LaPolla

The United States POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed throughout the nation on the third Friday in September each year.

Ceremonies and events are held across the country honoring and remembering the sacrifices and service of those Americans who

were prisoners of war and those who served and never returned home.

Read the tribute to their service written by Unit 383 member Sheila LaPolla at arm.stparchive.com (September 8, 2023 issue, page 4).



Congratulations to Peggy Toye, San Mateo Patriot of the Year!

Peggy Toye has been a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 105 for several years and is very well known for her contributions to the Post and veterans of San Mateo County. Peggy is also the District 26 Auxiliary President and has held many prominent positions.

She will be honored at San Mateo County Veterans Commission 8th Annual Veteran Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, November 9, at the Westin San Francisco Airport in Millbrae.

Her recognition as Patriot of the Year is well deserved! Congratulations Peggy!

Gold Star Mothers: Operation Holiday Salute

Holiday cards will be delivered to Veterans in hospice care across the United States. Address your holiday card to "Dear Hero" or "Dear Veteran". Mail your cards to

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
P.O. Box 197
Lincoln University, PA 19352

Postmark deadline is November 19

Save the Date

October

Education Month

- 8 Ms. Veteran America Pageant
- 9 Columbus Day
- 13 Navy Birthday
- 26 National Day of the Deployed
- 31 **Halloween**

November

Membership Month

- 5 Daylight Saving Time ends
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 23 **Thanksgiving Day**

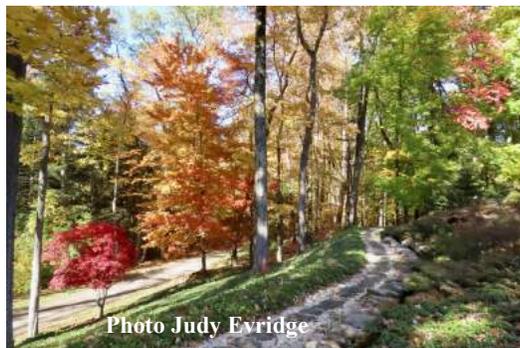


Photo Judy Evridge

Celebrating Our Dual Members



Tirrell McKnight
Unit 310