



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*



The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

2022-2023 Officers

President	Gloria Williams
Vice President	Glenda Schultz
Secretary	Liz Doidge
Treasurer	Susie Tozier
Chaplain	Grace Huston
Historian	Valerie Hill
Parliamentarian	Anita Biggs
Srgt-at-Arms	Phyllis Meyi
Asst. Srgt.	Alberta Cummings
Finance	Linda Workman
	Katherine Tellyer
	Teresa Lugo-Nunez
NEC	Joan Cannon
NEC Alt.	Kathie Martinez
Advisory	Diane DeLashmit
	Ruby Kapsalis
	Madeline Lee

2022-2023 Chairmen and Committees

Americanism	Suzanne Winters
Aux. Emergency	Marion Rocha
Children & Youth	Susan Baker
Community Service	Sharon Moore
Constitution/Bylaws	Glenda Schultz
Convention Chm.	Debbie Hurado
Convention Co-Chair	Gloria Jean Sinopoli
Conv. Com. Chair	Anita Biggs
Conv. Com. 2 Year	Linda Fercho
Conv. Com 1 Year	Gloria Jean Sinopli
Credentials	Patricia Galatioto
Distinguished Guest	Linda Workman
Editor	Nancy Heinisch
Education	Tracey Varnell Fercho
Elections	Donna Scott
Girls State Advisor	Nancy Brown-Park
Girls State Chairman	Allyn Kau
Girls State Director	Valerie Hardy
Girls S. Asst. Director	Sherry Core
Girls State 3 Year	Leslie Vondra
Girls State 2 Year	Jan Fletcher
Girls State 1 Year	Kimberly MacKinney
Girls State Nurse	Elizabeth Tomlin
Girls State Pres. Alt.	Patricia Patrick
Girls State VP Alt.	Jean McGinnis
GS Chief Counsel	Kimberly MacKinney
Junior Activities	Jackie Cleveland
Junior Conf. Director	Stacey Jones
Junior Conf. 2 Year	Deloris Artis
Junior Conf. 1 Year	Lela Dooley
Junior Conf. Nurse	Ann Sanchez
Leadership	Robin Falkenberg
Legislative	Dee Ann Graham
Membership	Maureen O'Brien-Sacco
Music	Yve Evans-Hanna
National Security	Joyce Henderson McLeod
Past Presidents Parley	Joan Cannon
Poppy	Martha Romano
Public Relations	Donna Smith
Resolutions	Linda Fercho
Rules	Linda Diebel
Veterans Affairs	Linda Hayes
Ways and Means	Mahala Beery
Ways and Means Com.	Marsha Munroe
Webmaster	Rebecca Glenn

President's Message Gloria Williams



What a wonderful and blessed holiday season it was! I hope you all enjoyed the festivities and welcomed the start of the new year.

each program has planned. A special thank you to all of you who took the time from your busy schedules to attend.

We had a fantastic beginning to 2023 at the January Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC). I loved hearing about all of your accomplishments and learning about the upcoming projects that

I am so blessed to have each and every one of you in my life. I look forward to my remaining visits and sharing the Friendship Train ride with all of you.

Gloria

Bulletins, flyers, announcements, chairman's updates to content, items for the Department of California /Facebook page and suggestions/ comments should be submitted to postonwebsite@calegionaux.org.

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

Deadline for the April/May issue is March 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 editor@calegionaux.org

Proper Parliamentary Procedure and Practices

*Department Parliamentarian
Anita Biggs helps answer
your most perplexing questions*



Our Unit is struggling. Where can we get help?

Here are two possibilities:

- (1) Madame President Gloria has appointed a special task force to provide guidance to units requesting assistance.

Members are

Susan Baker
Anita Biggs
Diane DeLashmit
Glenda Schultz
Susie Tozier

- (2) If you have questions about anything, you can also contact most of the Past Department Presidents. They are more than willing to give you advice and would be more than happy to mentor you.



Happy Birthday to Past Department President Odette Cuccaro who celebrated her 98th birthday January 28.

It was so wonderful to see her at DEC this year!

Grace Huston, Department Chaplain

When to Use the Auxiliary Emblem and Brand Mark

Purpose of the Brand Mark

The American Legion Auxiliary brand mark was created to address the need to modernize the American Legion Auxiliary brand to appeal to the next generation. Moreover, the new brand mark takes into consideration a host of applications that the original emblem could never have anticipated. Those include digital and social media, special events and sports marketing, lifestyle apparel and more.

Brand Mark versus Emblem

Going forward, the brand mark is to be used in all marketing communications applications, while the emblem should be reserved for official documents and communications.

In Application

The following guidelines offer direction in terms of when to use the emblem or one of the brand marks. While most applications will be clearly defined, inevitably some instances may straddle the line between two areas. In those cases, use discretion based on the intended audience. When choosing a brand mark option, you may default to what is most visually pleasing in that application. For example, the word mark should almost always be used in embroidery.

www.legion.org



Brand Mark Options

- advertising
- apparel (use word mark for embroidery)
- business cards, letterhead, email signatures
- credentials, event badges
- press releases
- digital (apps, web, social, PowerPoint presentations)
- promotional communications (flyers, handouts, etc.)
- events (signs, backdrops, tents, tablecloths, swag/giveaways)

Emblem Options

- uniform caps
- financial documents
- history books
- flags
- legal affairs
- internal manuals and guides
- reports and resolutions
- awards (option emblem or brand)
- building signage (option emblem or brand)
- formal government communications (option emblem or brand)

ALA Juniors are our Future!



Juniors Working Together

Elmer C. Jertberg American Legion Auxiliary Unit 299 Juniors and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 262 Juniors gathered together to hand-write Christmas cards for service members and veterans!

More than 600 cards were mailed along with over 200 cards delivered to service members and veterans in local and VA hospitals. The American Legion Riders Chapter 299 donated the postage.

Rebeka Avila-Hernandez, who spearheaded the campaign, said her goal was “to put a smile of the face of as many service members and veterans as possible..”

Kudos to all the Juniors involved in this project!

Pictured top left: SON Donald Avila-Hernandez, ALA Juniors Rebeka Avila-Hernandez and Samarah Hernandez; bottom left: Angelina and Ciara Flores

Junior Patch Program

Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as school-aged Sons of the American Legion members who often work alongside Juniors, may earn patches for activities in ALA programs such as Poppy, Leadership, Americanism, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and more.

Participating in the Patch Program is a terrific way to be involved in learning about the Auxiliary and our Legion Family, volunteering in the community, and serving our country’s veterans.

To see complete information for all the patches for each grade level, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org, Members Only, Junior Member Activities, and log in.

Rebeka Avila-Hernandez has earned 15 patches. The program has helped her gain more and more experiences. She says, “The program shows me that helping our service members and veterans is important because they have served our country and sacrificed a lot. I like to help others knowing that not all have families to turn to. It is nice to see their smiles even when they are having hard times because I know I made their day.”



Rebeka proudly displays her patches

Mission Outreach or Mission Awareness

Wearing an article of clothing does not count toward volunteer hours, much like hours spent flying a flag in your front yard doesn't count. **Volunteer hours should reflect direct mission service and direct impact in your community.**

Wearing red on Fridays to show your support of our military and veterans is important and encouraged, but it ultimately has little to do with direct mission outreach.

Volunteer hours are reported to Congress via The American Legion. Our impact numbers (aka your hours) need to reflect our actual hands-on mission outreach, as Congress uses those numbers when considering funding in the veterans realm. So, by reporting non-service (i.e., wearing a shirt for eight hours), it misrepresents the actual hours serving veterans' needs in your community and could ultimately hurt further federal funding as it looks like we are meeting the needs without that additional funding.

Being branded or wearing red on Fridays is truly for awareness of veterans and the mission of the ALA, but it's just not something that should be reported in your volunteer hours.

Questions? Because each situation re: volunteer hours is unique, please email programs@ALAforVeterans.org so we can answer your questions thoughtfully and on an individual basis.

ALA National Headquarters



National K9 Veterans Day

National K9 Veterans Day March 13, is a day set aside to honor commemorate the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history.

It was on March 13, 1942, that the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," according to American Humane, marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Officially a part of the service or not, the dogs of war span centuries and include such heroes as Sgt. Stubby, the original war dog; Chips, the most decorated dog in World War II; Lex, who retired with his fallen owners family; and Cairo, the Navy SEAL working dog on the bin Laden raid.

www.military.com



Adopt an Elder Holiday Program

For the third year in a row, Allied Unit 302 participated in the Los Angeles Adopt an Elder Program for the Holidays. Many seniors in Los Angeles are in need of some warmth. They either do not have a heater, can't afford to run one, or they are too dangerous for them. The members of Unit 302 collected donations of warm blankets, beanies, mittens, socks and scarfs.

Rodi Andreescu

Holiday Happenings Around the Auxiliary

Santa Sightings!



ALA Unit 302: Lupe Galaviz, Santa, the Grinch (submitted by Rodi Andreescu)



ALA Unit 835: Barb Toth, Santa, Judy Simpson (submitted by Tami Bell)



ALA Unit 277: Santa, Stacey Smith, Loretta Jimenez (submitted by Pat Alvarez)

District 26 Saves Christmas

Due to a mishap with the vendor/provider of toys for veterans' children and grandchildren, all the toys allotted for the VA went missing.

With only three days to find more toys before distribution day, the VA was in

a pickle. Most donated toys were already committed to other charities/agencies. Through word of mouth with friends, funds from our six Units, and posting on Facebook, District 26 collected dozens of toys and over \$2000 to purchase toys.

Peggy Toye, District 26 President



Unit 377 Participates in Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – **Remember, Honor, Teach** – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. All Wreaths Across America Day events are open to everyone.

ALA Unit 377 participated in Wreaths Across American on Saturday, December 17. Opening remarks were made by Robert Young, American Legion Adjutant. Beverly Naudet, two-time Blue Star Mother and Auxiliary Sergeant-at-Arms, then gave instructions on the proper way to lay the wreaths at the graves of the veterans. The wreaths are live evergreen fir with a single red bow. Wreaths were handed to guests who walked to each veteran's grave, spoke the veteran's name, placed the wreath at the headstone and either saluted or placed their hand over their heart. When this was completed at all twenty-four graves, everyone reassembled for the closing ceremony.



Regina Clark

Holiday Happenings (cont.)

It's a Wrap for Unit 238!



Unit 238 wrapped VA gifts and 15 holiday gifts for adults at the Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center, which serves adults with developmental disabilities and/or

traumatic and acquired brain injuries. Often the gifts they receive are the only gifts they receive all year. The gifts were provided by members of the Unit and the local Girl Scout Service Unit.

Peggy Toye, District 26 President



Veterans Honored and Entertained



More than 75 veterans enjoyed a hot turkey meal (turkey and gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, green beans and apple pie for dessert) prepared and served by members of Unit 283. The guests were each given a blanket and a deck of cards. For entertainment the Quartet from New Directions sang Christmas Carols and the theme song from each branch of service.

Deloris Artis, Unit 283 First Vice

Unit 302 Provides Lunch, Backpacks and Toys

Unit 302 provided lunch and a backpack for each Veteran attending their holiday event. They also provided two toys each for the 76 children from the community who were present.

Rodi Andreescu



Patriots of the Year Recognized

Members of American Legion Post 105 were honored at the 7th Annual San Mateo County Veterans Commission's "Veterans Recognition Lunch" in December including Commander George Smith, Auxiliary Member Wendy Weller and American Legion Rider Andrew Trapani, Wendy's husband.

The event recognized Wendy Weller and Andrew Trapani as the county's Patriots of the Year. Weller and Trapani are members of the Patriot Guard Riders, Warrior Watch Riders and the American Legion Riders. They have dedicated themselves to escorting veterans to their final resting place and helping families during their time of grieving.

The pair have participated in over 148 Final Honors funerals for vets and volunteer more than 1,200 hours a year.

Peggy Toye, District 26 President



Photo: Judy Evridge

Thank you for all the cards, letters, emails and calls during my mother's illness. They were so appreciated.

Anita Biggs

Seeking City Liaisons for 2023 Girls State

ALA California Girls State is looking for City Liaisons to help us make our 80th Session of ALA Girls State in Sacramento a week of growth, learning, and friendship for our diverse citizens.



Are you looking for an amazing, energizing experience with young leaders? Are you in good health and capable of walking throughout the day (including stairs)? Are you ready to spend a week being empowered by our staff and delegates? Do you want to share your love of patriotism and democracy with young people who are eager to learn?

We need you!

Please click the link below to fill out the application and submit it ASAP. Selections will be made shortly after receipt of application, and you will be notified as soon as possible.

[2023 ALA California Girls State City Liaison Application](#)

Please note: Background checks, SAM training, and Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training will be required for ALL staff. ALA California Girls State is busy and very tiring. For this reason we will not accept any applicants coming directly from another program. We want you at your best for our citizens!

Valerie Hardy, ALA 2023 California Girls State Director



Love, ALA District 26
U82 San Mateo, U105 Redwood City, U238 Pacifica,
U472 e-Unit, U474 Coastside and U585 San Carlos

The District sisters sent birthday greetings to Doretta Youngdahl (PUFL) who celebrated her landmark 100th birthday!



Fulfilling our Nation's Promise to Bring our MIA's Home

The American Legion Auxiliary has a tremendous opportunity during 2022-2023 to raise awareness of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

The agency's essential mission is to continue to bring our MIAs back home and to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

When American personnel remain captive, missing, or otherwise unaccounted-for at the conclusion of hostilities, the Department of Defense (DoD) accounting community becomes the responsible agent for determining the fate of the missing and where possible, recovering them alive or recovering and identifying the remains of the dead.

For those killed-in-action, the accounting community is charged with locating, recovering and identifying their remains. More than 81,900 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War.

The DPAA's mission will be achieved case by case, individual by individual, and family by family. The mission is not about numbers. It is about the fullest possible accounting of all Americans who are still missing from past conflicts dating back to World War II. We will stay the course with this mission until the job is done.

For more information please visit www.dpaa.mil.

*Joyce Henderson McLeod
Department National Security Chair*



"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."

Lily Tomlin



Celebrity Sightings at the DEC

Introducing Diane Marie DeLashmit, Volunteer Extraordinaire

The words or phrases “status quo”, “short term”, “good enough” or “quit” have never been in Diane DeLashmit’s vocabulary. In her 78 years of life, she has viewed everything she has started as a stepping stone to the next level, not only for self-fulfillment but to continue to pass on what she has learned to others.

A teacher at heart, she said it herself in an email with the words, “My passion is to share information.” She has been doing just that: 55 years as a lifetime member of Chino American Legion Auxiliary Unit 299, 52 years as a passionate teacher and leader at St. Boniface Catholic Church, and 33 years at her first job at Pacific

thousands more wonderful ALA memories.

Born on July 15, 1945 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Diane was the oldest of six children. She is the fourth of 43 grandchildren on her mother’s side! Her Norwegian maiden name is Arneson. Her family moved to Ontario, California, when she was 13. She had many uncles in the military but no immediate family members. Later in life her husband Charles Raymond DeLashmit introduced his wife to what would become a lifetime commitment.

Diane and her husband were married in 1964. In 1967 after serving in the Air Force, Charles (who went by Raymond) joined American Legion Chino Post 299. He was the first Vietnam era veteran at Post 299. He immediately joined the Post and wanted his wife and young daughter Rhonda to become members of the Auxiliary. On Diane’s 22nd birthday he introduced her to the Auxiliary who at that time were mostly WWI and WWII members.

Diane learned well from those women who took her under their wings and as she said, “They taught me all about the Auxiliary.” Following a short break after the original post surrendered its charter, a new group of women received its new charter in March of 1967. Diane and Rhonda joined in July of 1967, just four months short of being charter members. Today they are both the longest and only remaining members.

Diane and her family moved to their present home in Anaheim in 1970; however, they kept their membership at Chino, 26 miles away, except for two short years.

In her 55 years in the ALA Diane has held numerous (too numerous to name) local, state and national offices including Department President 1999-2000. Diane’s theme was “Under the Big Top—Performing Amazing Fetes on our Programs of Service.”

At that time National had a special project to raise money for the WWII

monument in Washington, DC. She is proud that California pledged \$10,000 and came together to raise \$28,000! Her first convention was in 1970; the only convention she missed was the one held in 1982 in Redding.

Diane also shared that teaching through leadership workshops is important to her, as those who have benefitted from her classes know. Creative Arts also hold a special place in her heart. She has attended three art festivals in Prescott, Salt Lake City, and Riverside. In Riverside she had the privilege of participating for the whole week. She felt that the interaction with the veterans was wonderful.

At St. Boniface church from 1974 to the present, Diane taught and led the Saturday religious education program, served as lector (reader), a Eucharistic minister, and a bereavement minister where she was in charge of every phase of funerals. She continues to be a Eucharistic minister despite being wheelchair bound.

In 2019 she was hospitalized for problems related to diabetes and in 2020 she had both legs amputated due to circulation problems. Coincidentally, or perhaps not, this all happened right at the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. She did not miss out on meetings or conventions, giving her time to heal physically and emotionally. Where many others might have quit at this point, it is no surprise to those who know Diane that she is taking lessons to learn to drive using handheld controls. She hopes to have her driver’s license soon.

Diane shared that she is back at her Unit, thanking her daughter who drives her to her monthly meetings and special events. Other good friends take her to District meetings.

She is still very active in her Unit, District and Department, serving this year as Unit Chaplain for the first time. She is also the 25th District Parliamentarian and Department Advisory Chairman.

She is a true inspiration! Her disability has not held her back from continuing to help others reach their goals.



Diane at the Ways and Means display at the January DEC

Telephone Company. At each of these positions, Diane started at the bottom learning as much as she could, working hard through each level, passing on what she knew as she went along, and accepting each advance as a challenge that helped all those whose path she has crossed.

Diane’s first memory of the American Legion Auxiliary is when at 12 years of age, she participated in a poppy poster contest. Since then she accumulated

Reflections on the DEC

I returned home from the “Legion Family DEC” invigorated. Tired, yes, but with a renewed spirit of comradery and togetherness. It was nice to be around the extended Legion Family!

The location was awesome! With a little preplanning my sister and I were able to get in a “Magical Day” at the Magic Kingdom, Disneyland! The hotel was nice, but it was in the process of being remodeled (which was supposed to have been completed), but it was a shock to come back from a day at the park to see the ample seating area of the lobby gone and walls up! What can you do but roll with it!

Kudos to those who worked on making all the pieces of our long weekend go together. The Conductors Faire gave us insight to what’s going on in our various programs; the Membership Party had some changes, making it an extra treat. After all the award certificates (and there were a lot – great job!) were handed out, we were treated to drinks and dancing. Thank you to the Districts and Posts that had something to do with that, it was very uplifting! Changing it up turned out to be a good thing.

Department President Gloria and Vice President Glenda worked in tandem to keep our meetings concise and moving along. You do learn quite a bit about how all these programs work by coming to DEC. Remember: it is open to

EVERYONE! The banquet on Saturday night was spot on! Great food, friends and fun with a Soul Train 70’s theme. It was especially energizing to see all the costumes, young and old, from all the Legion family, mixing it up together.

Convention Update

On Sunday we finished up the reporting. As Convention Chairman I was able to report that I have had a good response from Districts or Units that have said they will step up and help out with contributing to the “ditty bags”.

We can still use more in this area, but it looks like it will come together. Many of you didn’t know what you will send so just let me know when you have a decision, so that I can make sure someone else isn’t doing the same thing. I also received offers from individuals who said they will help out getting things set up in the days before the Convention is in session. “Many hands make light work!” I thank you all, and look forward to working with you.

Please email me if you’ve got questions or would like to lend a hand. Looking forward a Convention that is truly a Department endeavor.

Debbie Hurado
2023 Convention Chairman
ALA District 14, Unit 191
hurtony@aol.com



Legislative Chair Dee Ann Graham presented her program at the Conductors Faire



Linda Hayes stepped back in time at the 70’s themed banquet



Photo: Judy Evridge

Next Stop for Friendship Train: Community Service

The Friendship Train is moving right along! Department Executive Committee meeting in January proved that the Units and Districts are working in their communities promoting the Community Service Program.

Remember to track hours, funds spent and in-kind donations. See the monthly Bulletins for more information regarding deadlines for Year-end reporting and Awards.

Upcoming events and opportunities to promote the Community Service Program include:

- Community Service Month (March)
- Easter (April 9, 2023)
- Month of the Military Child (April)
- National Volunteer Week (April 17-21, 2023)

Sharon Moore, Department Community Service Chair

The Story of the Four Chaplains

Ever since I have been a member of the Auxiliary and knew of the story of the Four Chaplains, I have looked forward to February and attending a Four Chaplains Memorial Service. I think to find such heroism, selflessness, love for others is extremely rare. But to find these extraordinary men of faith who all possessed these gifts on this small ship was a gift from Heaven.

I hope every member will be able to attend a Four Chaplains Memorial Service in their area.

*Grace Huston
Department Chaplain*

On February 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers was sunk in the cold Atlantic.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains



brought hope in despair and light in darkness.

Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety.

“Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement

for those who would live,” says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. “I could hear men crying, pleading, praying,” Bednar recalls. “I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.”

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

“It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains’ selfless act.

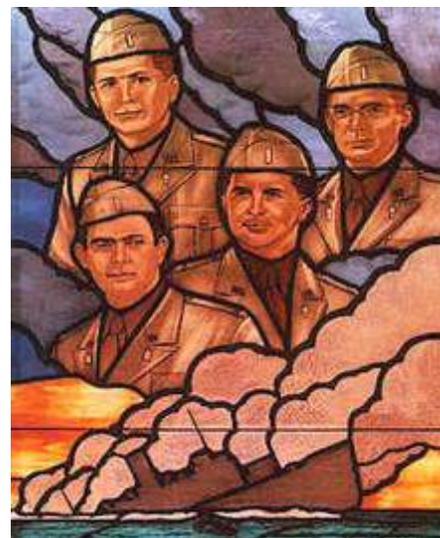
As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard

offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors.

When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

“Valor is a gift,” Carl Sandburg once said. “Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes.”



That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life’s ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, Virginia.

A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

*Grace Huston
Department Chaplain*

The American Legion Department of California will hold a Four Chaplains Day Inter-Faith Service:

**Saturday,
February 11, 2023
2 pm
Saint Mary’s Catholic Church
12050 E North Avenue
Sanger**

Plan Ahead: April is Children and Youth Month



The ALA Children and Youth program was created in 1931 and was called the “Child Welfare” program until 1970, when members voted to change the name to Children and Youth. In 1938 the American Legion designated the month of April as Child Welfare month – now known as Children and Youth Month. During the magical month of April ALA Unit members are encouraged to show their communities that The American Legion Family is dedicated to our youth. Get your Juniors involved; let them help to plan an event that will celebrate youngsters in your community or at your Post home. April will be here before we know it and the Legion Family needs to be ready!

Some suggested activities that would focus on youngsters include

- asking your mayor to issue an official proclamation declaring April as Children and Youth Month;
- sending an email or newsletter to your Legion Family members, advising them of activities planned for their children;
- hosting a Kids Easter Party – Easter is April 9th! Activities could include a bounce house, crafts and egg decorating, games, or an egg hunt;
- joining with other groups to co-sponsor and support a community-wide activity for kids and submit press releases to your local and social media outlets to highlight and advertise the event.

And please, don't forget the military children in your communities! April is also the Month of the Military Child! The recognition is part of the legacy of former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger, who established the commemoration in 1986. April 15th is the day to “Purple Up! For Military Kids” and everyone – both young and old – is encouraged to wear purple in recognition of the strength and sacrifices of military connected youth. Why purple? It is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, Navy blue, and Space Force blue. Plan a Legion Family activity or event to celebrate these very special kids and let them know just how much we appreciate the sacrifices they endure as military children.

Send pictures of your Purple Up! and Children and Youth activities to pics@calegionauxi.org for posting to the Department website. Let's honor ALL of our children this April!

Susan Baker, Department Children and Youth Chairman

Legion Baseball



A Baseball Legacy Since 1925

Did you know that over 80 Legion baseball players are in the Hall of Fame? Please consider supporting this worthwhile program.

Contact Judy Leonardi
baseball@calegionauxi.org

Celebrating our Dual Members: Lillian Moss



Cancer survivor and photographer extraordinaire Lillian Moss serves as AL District 22 Historian. She is an active member of the Lakiba N. Palmer Unit 310. Lillian is known for always willing to go the extra mile and do whatever is needed.

Tips When Using Social Media



Social Media Guidelines

Using social media tools can have a great impact on how people view your unit and the American Legion Auxiliary. Active internet users say they think more positively about companies that have blogs.

Social media can be a quick, easy and fun way to spread your message, engage in conversation with others, promote active participation from your members and possibly even recruit new members.

General Best Practices for Social Media

Be yourself, but use common sense. Think twice before posting something that may hurt the image of the American Legion Auxiliary or compromise your privacy, and never post confidential or proprietary information. Be aware that courts may judge certain material as proprietary, copyrighted, defamatory, libelous or obscene. Perhaps Intel's Social Media Guidelines put it best. "If it gives you pause, pause."

It's certainly OK and encouraged to talk about the American Legion Auxiliary, our programs, volunteers, projects and mission. Share examples of things going on in your department, keep your content fresh, and update it often.

Adhere to Brand and Identity Standards

All American Legion Auxiliary-sanctioned social media should feature the appropriate visual identifiers and conform to the Auxiliary's branding guidelines.

Be Thoughtful

You are officially representing the American Legion Auxiliary so exercise good judgement before posting your own personal views and responding to provocative posts. If someone from the media contacts you via social media, please redirect them to the National Headquarters Communications Division. Never use Auxiliary branded social media to endorse a political candidate, service, business, etc.

Donna Smith, Department Public Relations Chair

Save the Date

February

Americanism

- February 02: Groundhog Day
- February 05: Four Chaplains
- February 05: Super Bowl Sunday
- February 11: Department Four Chaplains Inter-Faith Service (Sanger)
- February 11: Memorial Service for Tammy Sollazzo
- February 14: National Salute to Veteran Patients
- February 14: Valentine's Day**
- February 19: Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- February 20: President's Day

March

Community Service

- March 03: Navel Reserve Birthday
- March 05: Seabee Birthday
- March 12: Daylight Saving Time
- March 13: K 9 Veterans Day
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day**
- March 20: First Day of Spring
- March 25: Congressional Medal of Honor Day
- March 29: National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
- March 30: California Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day



Photo: Judy Evridge

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Leo Buscaglia