



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*



Samantha and Natalie Goldman participated in the American Legion Auxiliary District 18 playground equipment fundraiser for Fort Irwin Army Base and 29 Palms Marine Corps Base. The two girls sold lemonade and cookies and accepted generous donations from family, friends and neighbors. They were able to raise \$1,301 which they then gave to District 18 to go towards purchasing the equipment.

Samantha and Natalie are active Junior Members of Unit 180. They have taken part in several activities including writing letters to our active military men and women, passing out poppy coloring books and poppies in their classrooms and collecting can goods for the District 18 food drive. They helped their unit count school supplies that were given to the City of Azusa.

They truly love being part of the ALA!

Christine Evans and Erika Hernandez

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
Srvt-at-Arms	Jean McGinnis
Asst. Srvt.	Melise Munroe
Finance	Linda Workman
	Teresa Lugo-Nunez
	Brenda Ternullo
NEC	Kathie Martinez
NEC Alt.	Dee Ann Graham
Advisory	Linda Workman
	Joa Cannon
	Kathie Martinez

President's Message

Glenda Schultz

Thank you all for your support! I am both honored and humbled to serve as your ALA President for the 2023-2024 year.

My theme will be **UNITED AS ONE**. My motto is "California—the Golden State" and my colors will be blue and gold.

For my special project I have chosen "**BE THE ONE**" for Veteran suicide prevention.

I appreciate your dedication and look forward to meeting with you and hearing about all the wonderful things you are doing to take care of our Veterans and their families.



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

Acronym for President's Theme

I wanted to show our new Department President Glenda that we are all together with her throughout our state. I love her theme this year! I hope this extended acronym serves as a little inspiration for our members.

Unwavering Support for our Veterans
Nationally Unified Together
Impactful in our Communities
Truely to the ALA Mission
Encouraging Others
Dedicated to the Cause We Serve

Anne Marie Fuller, District 2 Public Relations Chair

The Auxiliary News Hub is the official publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California. Deadline for the October / November issue is September 23.

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

Does the Department of California recognize domestic partners for the purpose of ALA eligibility?

No. *This IRS regulation concludes that the terms spouse, husband, and wife do not include individuals who have entered into a registered domestic partnership, civil union, or other similar formal relationship not denominated as a marriage under the law of the state, possession, or territory of the United States where such relationship was entered into, regardless of domicile. This means that the individual non-veteran in these non-recognized relationships – domestic partnerships, civil unions, or other similar formal relationships not denominated as a marriage – are not American Legion Auxiliary member-eligible.

**Source: Department Operations Guide-Membership*

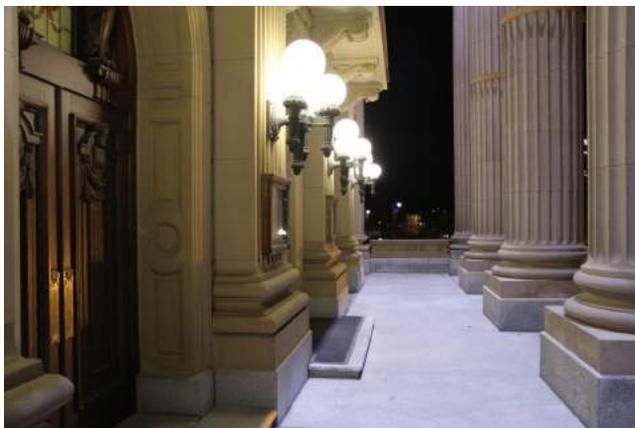
The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress

The American Legion is the voice of nearly 1.6 million U.S. Military Veterans and service members. A resolution-based organization, The American Legion’s positions represent the view of its membership and shape the organization’s legislative priorities for the 118th Congress.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention: The leading issue facing the veteran community is suicide. The suicide rate among veterans is nearly double that of their civilian counterparts, with more than 6,000 veterans taking their lives annually.

Recent bills passed: Senate Bill 777, the Veteran’s Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023, or the Veteran’s COLA Act of 2023, which provides for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veteran’s disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation beneficiaries equal to the Social Security COLA.

The legislation promises that VA benefits, including disability compensations, clothing allowances, and survivor support, will see a cost-of-living hike in 2024 equal to that of Social Security payouts. The Social Security hikes are automatic each year as set under federal law.



The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Health Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps to improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

*Donna Smith,
Department Legislative Chair*

“Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are.”

Harold Kushner

Chaplain's Corner

I am truly honored and grateful for the opportunity to have served as Chaplain for the Department of California, the past two years: 2022-23 under the leadership of Department President Gloria Williams and 2021-22 under Past Department President Dee Ann Graham.

I appreciate the support not only of the District and Unit Chaplains but also from the California membership in general.

There are many ways we serve and support our veterans, active duty military and all their families who have led by example as they have served God and Country. Supporting the ALA mission and leaders are a couple of the many ways we provide support.

I'm certain that our new Department Chaplain Patti Martinez will appreciate your continued support as we all wish her a great year!



Photo Henry Sanchez

A very special "thank you" to all those donating time, talent and treasure to memorialize our deceased members at the Convention ceremony. Thank you to those who participated in the tribute to Odette Cuccaro and LuAnn Capazzi. A note of gratitude to Dan Dunn, Marcie Dunn, Kayla Herman, and Donna Vasquez for their efforts in creating the audio/visual presentation.

Volunteers in Action, Making a Difference



Every Tuesday morning ALA District 2 member Judy Henderson can be found volunteering her time at the "Veterans Connect" outreach program held at the Redding Public Library. The two-hour weekly event is offered free to the community and helps connect California veterans, along with their families, with local resources they may need.

Information is also provided on possible benefits they may have earned through their military service.

Judy is a District 2 American Legion Auxiliary Past President and has worked the Veterans Connect event booth since 2018. She is a proud member of Unit 746.

Anne Marie Fuller
ALA District 2 Public Relations Chair



Photo Rich Schmitt Photography

Joan Boylan was the Grand Prize winner of the Poppy Hat Contest at Post 283. The Ronald Reagan-Palisades Legion family all joined in the effort to celebrate the symbolism of the poppy.

Nancy Niles, Unit 283 Treasurer

Legionnaire is Honored with Honor Flight

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.

The first Honor Flight was 20 years ago, and the Honor Flight Kern County began around 12 years ago. Honor Flight began in the Midwest as a way to show gratitude to WWII veterans. It has grown to 136 "hubs," or chapters nationwide. The Honor Flight Kern County (HFKC) is one of the largest. It's a big, robust regional non-profit organization with a board and donors and many patriotic people in Kern County and Bakersfield. Southern California currently has four hubs: San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Kern County.

The following is an interview with Dennis Anderson written by ALA-DoC Vice President Linda Hayes:

It all began on a Friday afternoon at a Vets4Veterans luncheon in Lancaster. Fred Balthe, an 88-year-old Korean veteran and self-appointed promoter for the Honor Flight Kern County, was encouraging 89-year-old Anthony "Tony" Kitson to participate in the Honor Flight. As they were talking, Legionnaire Dennis Anderson was planning to volunteer as a guardian to escort Tony, his friend of 30 some years and on the fragile side. Once they checked Mr. Anderson's DD-214, they saw that he fit the Honor Flight criteria and called him to encourage him to go as a participant as well.

Mr. Anderson explained that one must be at least 70 years old and a veteran from WWII, Korea, or Vietnam. Preference is given to veterans diagnosed with a terminal condition. Guardians fly with the veterans on every flight to provide extra help. Guardian volunteers pay their own way while the veteran's trip is paid in full. They are working all the time staying close to whomever they are escorting. "The only catch is that the only ones who cannot volunteer to escort are spouses. The reason is that sometimes Mr. and Mrs. do not get along well enough to make the tight timeline

because of the fussing and fighting," Mr. Anderson said as he chuckled. There was a party type atmosphere as the nearly 100 veterans were getting ready to take off on Honor Flight 46. Upon their return flight, there were nearly 1,000 people to welcome them home. They were from the American Legion and Auxiliary, VFW, patriotic groups, high school teams, college teams, all the ROTCs, and young Marines – it was a warm "welcome home" that some may not have experienced the last time they returned home.

While in Washington D.C., the Honor Flight veterans, all dressed in blue, visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witnessed the changing of the guard. "Seated in an L-shaped row with about half of them in wheeled transport chairs, there was a truck dispatcher, a cook, a submariner, plus a collection of grunt infantry' soldiers, joined by Marines, airmen, and sailors," wrote journalist/ Legionnaire Anderson. They were seated and standing in the VIP section at Arlington National Cemetery. Among them was one authentic combat hero and one conscientious objector, both drafted during the Vietnam War, both of whom served with honor and distinction.

"During the round of tour stops, veterans stepped off the bus to visit Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps memorials. Flight 46 veterans visited the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. They also visited memorials of the nation's historic leaders: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dr. Martin Luther King, our 16th President who preserved the Union, Abraham Lincoln, and the Women's Memorial at Arlington," Dennis Anderson continued.

Schoolchildren pressed notes into their hands. Mr. Anderson's note read:

"People don't really have an idea of what you went through. I want to thank you for being brave," from Max Vogt, a sixth grader. At the World War II Memorial, middle school girls presented him with a red carnation and "beaming smiles."

During the interview, Mr. Anderson spoke about an "authentic combat hero" - Earle Cooper. Cooper is a modest guy, a gentle man, who was drafted into the Army. When he was drafted, he volunteered for MOS, he volunteered for OCS, and he volunteered to be airborne. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne and then sent to Vietnam. Once in Vietnam, he was given a choice to stay on the base or to be in the field. He chose to be in the field. Captain Earle Cooper earned not one, but two Silver Stars and a Purple



Photo Shelby Pruitt

Service members and civilians from Joint Base San Antonio greeted 20 veterans as they returned to San Antonio International Airport, Sept. 7, 2019, following an Honor Flight to visit memorials in their honor in Washington, D.C.

Heart. He was in combat action at Hamburger Hill. He did everything, and he did it for love of his country.

Dennis Anderson is an Army veteran and paratrooper who served in the Cold War and covered the Iraq War as an embedded journalist with local National Guard troops. He serves on the Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Commission.

To read more about this amazing Honor Flight, check out Dennis Anderson's article at www.aerotechnews.com/blog/2023/05/05/honor-flight-kern-county-flies-veterans-to-nations-capital/.

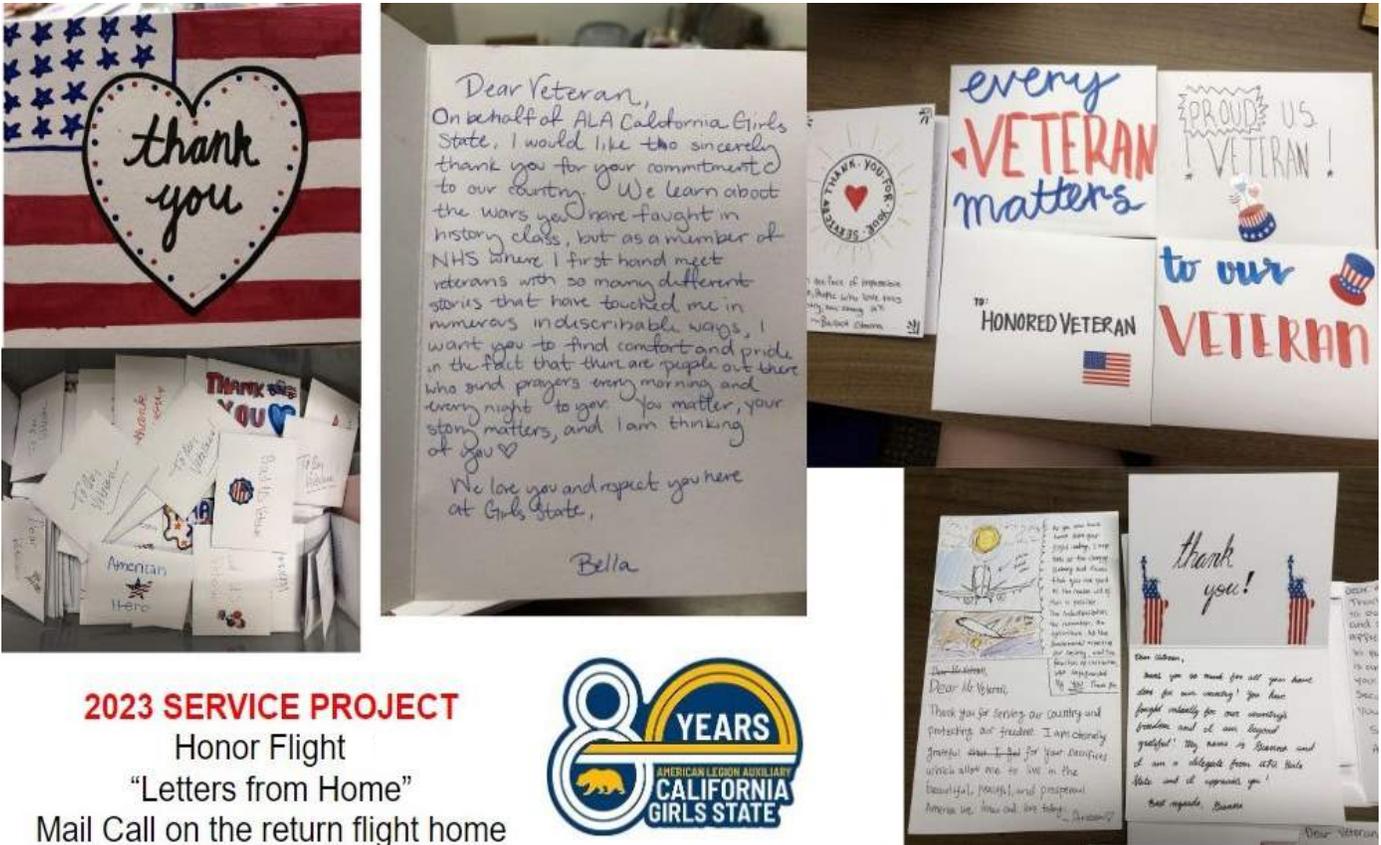
CAGS Service Project Supports Honor Flight

Honor Flight is a free program for veterans to travel back to Washington, D.C., to visit the war memorials.

This year's California Girls State Service Project was creating "letters from home" to Honor Flight passengers—notes of appreciation from CAGS Citizens and optional small gift card donations.

Over 500 cards will be distributed this fall at six different hubs. This year ALA Liaisons took the lead in organizing the Service Project in order to relieve the CAGS staff of an additional responsibility. The notecards were purchased/donated by Units 105 Redwood City, 238 Pacifica, District 26, and Bea Gunn (U82 CAGS Chair).

Peggy Toye, District 26 President



2023 SERVICE PROJECT

Honor Flight

"Letters from Home"

Mail Call on the return flight home



Celebrating our Dual Members



Melissa Braicov

Melissa is Commander of Post 359 and a proud member of Norwalk Unit 359.

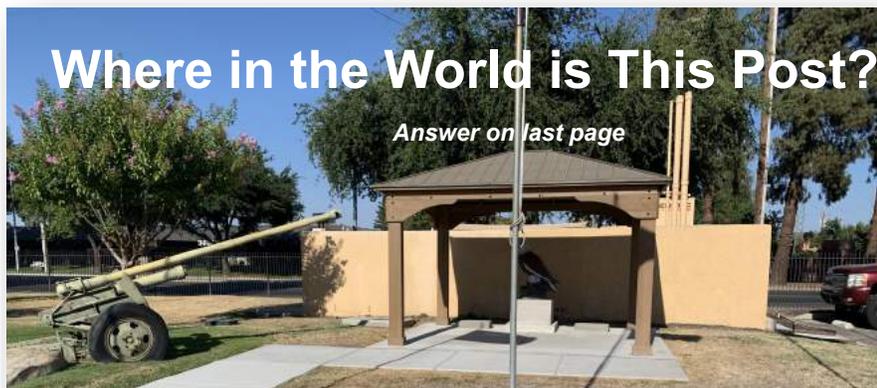
Melissa served on the Elections committee at Convention.



Partnering with Businesses

Members of ALA Unit 249 NcFall-Grisham Manteca partnered with Blue Diamond to include a packet of almonds in every ditty bag at Convention. Thank you to Blue Diamond and almond farmers Mike and Dona Vasquez of Post 249.

Grace Huston



American Legion Family National Convention

The American Legion Family National Convention will take place in Charlotte, N.C., August 25 - 31, 2023. The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention is our largest gathering of members, guests, and distinguished speakers.

The weeklong event is held annually in cities across America at the same time and place as the convention of The American Legion for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, conducting other ALA business — and most of all — having fun while celebrating our accomplishments from the administrative year.



Photo Henry Sanchez

Congratulations to Maureen O'Brien Sacco who received the 2023 Dottie Sherrard Auxiliary Member of the Year Award by the Sons of the American Legion. Maureen is Department Children and Youth Chairman.

Astonishing Visit to Pearl Harbor

It was a sunny day in Honolulu, Hawaii, December 4, 2022. As the tour bus pulled into the parking lot at Pearl Harbor, I could see the USS Arizona Memorial in the distance. It sits over the wreckage of the ship. Across the waterway, I saw more evidence of the doomed battleship peeking above the water. In the distance, I saw the USS Missouri also known as “The Mighty Moe”.

My husband and I boarded a small touring boat for the trip to the USS Arizona Memorial. As the boat approached the memorial, I was awestruck as we approached this sacred building.

The boat docked. As my husband and I walked from the little pier towards the



View of Pearl Harbor from tour boat

memorial building itself, I felt a sense of peace and tranquility. Looking over the sides of the Memorial, I could see the outline of USS Arizona in the depths of the water. Further away from the memorial, concrete markers could be seen. These markers represented other ships that went down on December 7, 1941. Two turrets from the USS Arizona could be seen a short distance from the Memorial building.

Walking into the USS Arizona Memorial revealed an astonishing site. A massive marble wall was before me. On it, the names of sailors and marines who lost their lives on that fateful day were carved into the stone. A sense of reverence filled the air as the tourists around us sought solace and prayer in the midst of those who sacrificed their lives for our country.

I was standing next to a side wall looking down at the ship below us. In the silence several people started to sing “Happy Birthday” to an elderly woman. She was introduced to the onlookers as Eilane who had just turned 100. She was a “Rosie the Riveter” in WWII. She walked past me. I calmly approached her and asked if she was Rosy, the Riveter. She smiled and said “Yes”. She spoke with me a bit then left with her family. The next night at dinner, I realized she was part of our touring group that visited the USS Arizona Memorial the previous day. After talking with her, she agreed to allow her family member to take a picture of her with my husband and me. I remember her as being of a kind, gentle nature with a great sense of humor.

This experience fulfilled a life-long dream. It brought a greater understanding of the significance of this day including the unprovoked act of war, the lives that were lost, and the aftermath that the families endured as we were pulled into WWII.

Onto the “Mighty Moe”. I had never seen such a huge ship. The deck was massive. As I looked towards the bow, I could see two layers of three guns that were used to defend the U.S. while at sea. It was amazing to think about the sailors who worked on this ship during WWII. Next I climbed up steep, metal steps and walked to the area where the Japanese leaders signed the “Instrument of Surrender” which ended the conflict.

In closing, this was an experience like no other. A day will come when my husband and I will travel to Hawaii again. We will be able to explore Pearl Harbor again!

Footnote: There was some family history linked to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. My uncle witnessed the bombing from his home when he was 12 years old. He was standing on top of his house. As a native Hawaiian, he must have been confused about the carnage he witnessed at such an early age. He never spoke to me about his experience except what I have stated above. In 1959 he married my aunt and was an important family member in my life.



USS Missouri with husband on deck



Rear end of Memorial



USS Missouri—upper deck where Japanese surrendered



Turret with concrete markers in background

ALA Juniors Rock!

Junior Projects on the Horizon

Please see if your Juniors can help with the following.

Questions? Contact Department Junior Activities Chair Martha Romano jr.activities@calegionaux.org.

Christmas Art for Barstow Veterans Home

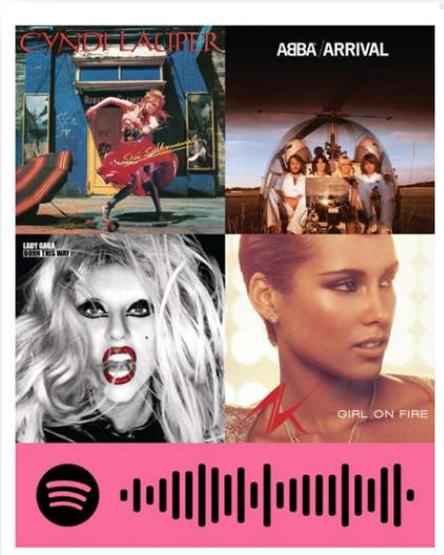
- Send artwork to
American Legion Post 716
252 Florista Street
Los Alamitos CA 90729

Veterans Day Cards

- Send cards to
645 Coral Sun Court
Rio Linda, CA 95673

Christmas Cards

- Send to
American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 299
P.O. Box 1904
China CA 91708



Juniors have their own playlist on Spotify.



Junior t-shirt fundraiser bit.ly/JuniorTShirt.

**CA ALA JUNIORS
VIRTUAL MEETING
2023-2024**

Sunday, August 6 - 5:00 pm

LETS TALK - JUNIORS ROCK!

jr.activities@calegionaux.org
email Junior Activities Chair for zoom link

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Fundraiser for Children & Youth/Junior Activities

**September 30
5-9 pm**

American Legion Post 447
729 Santiago Avenue
Sacramento

California Units say “Thanks” and Farewell to Mission in Action Grants

Since 2018, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation has awarded 57 Mission in Action grants nationally totaling \$98,678.86 including California Units 348, 46, and 507.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors thanks all units, districts, and departments that applied for a Mission in Action grant. Thank you for making branding and more prominent mission delivery a priority for your ALA entity.

“The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is changing to better serve the units and departments of the American Legion Auxiliary,” said ALA Foundation President Cathe MacInnes.

Mission in Action grants were established to assist units and departments with increasing brand awareness — one of the five goals in the American Legion Auxiliary’s 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan. That plan was completed in 2019. With the COVID-19 pandemic causing units and departments to cease meetings, there were few applications for Mission in Action grants.



Items like the specially-ordered pop up tent provided by the ALA Foundation Mission in Action Grants help branding efforts in the community.

As the pandemic waned, units were eager to reopen, reintroduce themselves to their communities, and restart their programs of hands-on service. Many applied for and received Mission in Action grants, letting their communities know the American Legion Auxiliary is continuing to serve America’s veterans.

“The current American Legion Auxiliary strategic plan emphasizes mission engagement and delivery,” MacInnes continued. “In keeping with its mission of raising funds for, assisting in conduct of, and providing support to the American Legion Auxiliary programs, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is developing a new grant type specifically targeting providing support to ALA programs.”

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will continue to offer [Veteran Projects Fund grants](#), [Veterans Creative Arts Festival grants](#), and [sub-granting opportunities](#) while a new granting initiative to take the place of Mission in Action grants is developed.

To learn more about the granting opportunities available, please visit www.ALAFoundation.org/grants. Thank you for all that you do to ensure the ALA’s mission of service endures for generations to come.

American Legion Auxiliary Magazine

Certificate of Appreciation Awarded

Alyce Hammond of Unit 130 in Grass Valley was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation which reads:

“This 50 star flag was donated to the Nevada County Veterans Service Office by Alyce Hammond. Alyce participated in an American Legion Auxiliary correspondence program writing 2022 letters in one year to our deployed troops serving in the Vietnam War. She received an Accommodation from a State Senator and from the President. With the significance at that time of the new 50 star USA flag, she was also awarded this flag that had been flown over our nation’s capital in 1960. Alyce is a long-time resident of Grass Valley, as well as a dedicated veterans supporter. She has been a member of the Frank Gallino American Legion Auxiliary Post since 1951, as well as having volunteered for community and non-profit organizations.”



The Certificate was signed by Nevada County Veterans Service Officer David West and Director of Nevada County Department of Social Services Rachel Pena.

Marcia Munroe



District 6 Installs First Male Officer

AL Department of California Commander John Aldridge, District 6 President Suzanne Winters and ALA Department of California President Glenda Schultz

As the 2023 convention ended, Northern California is feeling blessed to have Glenda Shultz, the new California Department President, in our own back yard.

Commander John Aldridge and ALA Department of California President Glenda Schultz perform the installations at Post 521 in Rio Linda.

On July 15 District 6 Auxiliary along with the Legion installed their 2023—2024 officers for the year. It was quite the honor to have AL Department of California

This was a very special installation as District 6 installed their first male officer - Max Baumgartner - as Chaplain.

*Elise Spleiss,
District 6 Public Relations Chair*

Community Yard Sale



Shasta Unit 197 held a Community Yard Sale in July. Community members were able to sell their goods in a nice cool environment.

Christine Smith, President Unit 197

ALA Membership Polo



Department of California ALA McFall-Grisham Unit 249 District 11 in Manteca California celebrated atop a float in their Annual 4th of July Parade. Members in the above picture (left to right): President Unit 249 Marcia Munroe, Junior Member Giselle Cannon, Junior Member Alyssa Cannon and Past Department President Joan Cannon.

Grace Huston

What Does Veterans Day Mean?

Junior Keeley Young

First Place Award in District 20 ALA Americanism Essay Contest, Group III

Veterans Day means the world to me - it is near and dear to my heart. Since I was a little girl, I have been taught to love and respect our veterans. However, as I am growing up, the depth of my appreciation for Veterans Day is greater because my knowledge has enlarged. I now understand the risk our veterans take by being willing to sacrifice their lives for our freedom.

I now realize how much our veterans sacrifice. Not only are they willing to give up their lives for this country, but they also must be willing to risk losing their families and friends. When veterans are deployed, many must miss their kids being born, birthday celebrations, and holidays. I can't imagine what our military personnel experience when they're missing family celebrations on Thanksgiving or Christmas day. To me, Veterans Day is a day to celebrate those who were able to return home safely to their families, like my dad. He sacrificed so much for us, therefore my mom and I will never forget, but we honor his bravery and courage. I wish all Americans would remember and celebrate our military, instead of having the perspective of it just being an extra day off from school or work.

I have found that my friends sometimes do not fully understand what Veterans Day means because they haven't experienced living in a military family, and many of our schools no longer teach American History. Another big misconception is Veterans day vs Memorial Day.

You would be surprised how many Americans don't even know the difference. Veteran's Day is reserved for those who came home and Memorial Day for those that gave their lives. I think it would help the culture of this Nation if American

History were taught in schools because it would help increase kid's knowledge of patriotism and liberty. That is another reason I am so grateful for the education provided in the Junior Auxiliary.

such strong women has been a blessing. I pride myself as an inclusive and caring person. When I reflect on Veterans Day, and everyday in-between, I am thankful for those who have served to give me the privilege of the freedom I have. Because of my dad, and so many others, I am a proud American girl who knows and realizes my unlimited opportunities.

My family has always challenged my critical thinking skills. From time to time my mom would ask me if you put a Republican and Democrat in a room what do you have? She would always say, "Well you have two Americans." It took me a while to fully understand the concept she was trying to get across but I get it now. I would like to think this analogy is similar to anyone who has served. If you put a retired Air Force soldier, Marine, Army soldier, and Navy soldier in a room what do you have? Well you have four Veterans. Four men and women that choose to put their lives on the line for you and me. I appreciate this opportunity to share my views on the meaning of Veterans Day.



ALA District 20 First Vice Liz Tungate with Keely

My family has been involved with the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary for over 14 years. They introduced me to the Auxiliary from the age of 6 and signed me up as a Junior Auxiliary member. My experiences with this organization have helped me gain a respect for patriotism and veterans from all wars. I have heard many stories, and have gained an understanding of their pain and suffering, and I really enjoy lending a helping hand through the ventures and activities we do as Junior members for our veterans.

I am so very grateful to be a part of such an amazing organization. Being able to shadow

In conclusion, Veterans Day is very important to me and I will never forget how they have sacrificed for all of us. Not only Veterans Day but everyday I will hold their sacrifices close to my heart. We owe them something more than just a paycheck or medical coverage. They have given us our liberty and freedom. They all deserve the right to live as they please. We owe them our respect, love, and support. Veterans Day means your freedom and mine. To me personally, it means a day where we can celebrate our freedom – the freedom that these powerful soldiers fought for.

Submitted by District 20 Second Vice Sam Marstellar



Spot-on at Convention

Convention attendees Anita Biggs, Gloria Williams and Erika Hernandez are picture-perfect in polka dots.



Photo Jon Tyson

Be the One to Save One Veteran

‘Be The One’ is a national campaign to help lower the suicide rate among veterans. There is great hope that our Legion Family members will “Be the One” to save one veteran.

Q: I’m a spouse, partner, family member, caregiver, friend of a veteran, or interested civilian. What can I do to support this initiative?

A: The stigma associated with mental health issues is a barrier to veterans seeking assistance. They fear loss of their job, think they can handle their situation themselves, or don’t believe others can understand their situation. Family members may be the first to recognize the signs that their loved one needs help, but they may lack the knowledge of how to approach the situation.

If you have a family member, friend, business associate or have another connection with someone who is a veteran, The American Legion encourages you to Be the One to:

- * ask veterans in your life how they are doing
- * listen when a veteran needs to talk and
- * reach out when a veteran is struggling.

legion.org

Save the Date *August*

National Convention

- 4 Coast Guard Birthday
- 6 Juniors Virtual Meeting
- 7 Purple Heart Day
- 10 US Department of Defense Birthday
- 10 Agent Orange Awareness Day
- 12 -13 Clovis Workshop
- 15 Victory over Japan
- 16 National Airborne Day
- 26 National Convention begins
- 29 Marine Corps Reserves Birthday

September

Music

- 4 Labor Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 15-17 Rosh Hashanah begins
- 15 National POW/MI Recognition Day
- 17-23 Constitution Week
- 18 Air Force Birthday
- 23 First Day of Autumn
- 24 Yom Kippur
- 24 Gold Star Mother’s Day
- 29 VFW Day

Answer to Where in the World?
The Post is American Legion Fresno Federal 509 made up of Post Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion Squadron and Legion Riders Chapter.



Photo Judy Evridge