



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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NATIONAL SECURITY

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National Security supports activities that address the practical and emotional wellbeing of military service members and their families. Auxiliary members can and do step up and reach out to care for military families in practical ways. Assisting with needs for child care, lawn work, rides to appointments, or providing a listening ear, The American Legion Auxiliary is there to care for active duty military when serving, hospitalized, in transition, and as they return to civilian life. WE make a Difference in the lives of our Veterans & their families.

Welcome-Home Events: Our members do helpful things such as collecting coupons and sending them to overseas commissaries, hosting warm send-off and welcome-home events for our troops, providing service members with pocket flags, and showing the gratitude of our nation by providing military families with Blue Star and Gold Star Banners. EVERYONE has the opportunity to work on these programs. **Encourage those who are not eligible to participate.**

CERT: Earn your ‘Community Emergency Response Team’ certificate. This will train you to assist communities in natural and manmade disasters. Contact your local fire or police department in your community to find out more about training in your area. Local Auxiliary units often collaborate with [Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program](#), [Operation Homefront](#), [Operation Comfort Warriors](#), [Heroes to Hometowns](#), [POW/MIA Initiatives](#), [USO affiliates](#), and [ROTC/JROTC](#) units as a means to care for our active duty military when serving, hospitalized, in transition, and as they return to civilian life. Ask your members to make a few calls, look up the websites listed above and report at your meeting on what YOUR UNIT can do.

Ensuring that America’s POW/MIAs be honored and recognized: The American Legion Family is dedicated to ensuring that America’s POW/MIAs be honored and recognized, not just memorialized. Legion efforts focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. An important way all Legion Family members create awareness and remembrance for this initiative is through conducting POW/MIA remembrance services at unit meetings and public events. Strong, united support by all Legion Family members is crucial to bringing all of our heroes home. Units can create awareness and remembrance of POW/MIA by holding services at meetings and public events.

Participate in a few of our programs: OUR programs work because of you and your Unit. WE raise millions of dollars and donate millions of hours for our programs and our Veteran’s lives. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: Airport greeting, transportation, meals, American Red Cross / Blood Drives USO, Armed Forces Servicemen Center @ Mpls Airport, Pocket Angels for the Armed Forces Service Center. Please participate in these programs, even money donations help when you are not able to physically do activities. It is all appreciated so much. It is our responsibility through our eligibility to honor and serve our Communities, our Veterans and their families. YOU belong to our family. Thank you for YOUR service Unit members!

Honoring the Troops Display [Blue Star Banners](#) in the window to show that someone in the home is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. [Purchase banners](#) for the families of deployed

service-members as a gesture of support. Offer help to families displaying banners Honor those still missing with a POW/MIA Remembrance Service. We host programs recommended by the [Department of Homeland Security](#) that assist members and communities in preparing for and/or responding to natural or manmade disasters

GI Josh program benefits children of our deployed military families. GI Josh encourages and provides comfort to children during very difficult and trying times of their lives. Josh and Friends purpose is to provide comfort to children in stressful situations. Josh and Friends is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) charitable entity created to put emotional support plush dogs in the hands and hearts of children who need them. Check out this wonderful tool for our Military Children. GI Josh Dogs can be purchased at www.JoshandFriends.com. **For American Legion Family Members** To receive your GI Josh promo code, please email info@joshandfriends.com.

National Security Awards: There are many Unit awards in this program that so many of you are eligible to apply for, please take the time to go over the plaques & awards that are offered. Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Use your cell phone to take pictures of the information in the program at your meetings. Follow up in your memo area of your checkbook to keep track of what you do in this program. Post your events on your facebook page and be sure to write articles in your local newspapers. When you do your mid-year and year-end annual report you are able to report all that you have done. I look forward to reading your submissions for awards & plaques this year!

Helpful Guides and Resources:

ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide

How to Support troops and their families on Military Installations

Welcome to Our Hometown Action Guide

ALA Operation Homefront Action Guide

ALA – USO Action Guide

Blue Star and Gold Star – www.legion.org/troops/bluestar

www.legion.org/familysupport

www.legion.org/powmia

Legislative Action Alerts: <http://capwiz.com/legion/home/>

www.redcross.org

www.uso.org

www.taps.org

ocpnet.org

Emergency Preparedness Info – www.ready.gov

ALA National Headquarters: www.ALAforVeterans.org

Wear red on Fridays: Remember Everyone Deployed, Vicki Bibeau, National Security Chairman