



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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NATIONAL SECURITY September/October 2018

Purpose Statement: To support our military and their families.

Auxiliary units can 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.

Auxiliary members step up and reach out to help military families during deployments in very practical ways, such as assisting with their needs for child care and lawn work or by providing a listening ear to a spouse. Members do helpful things such as collecting coupons and sending them to overseas commissaries, hosting send-off and welcome-home events for our troops, providing them with pocket flags, and showing the gratitude of our nation by providing military families with Blue Star and Gold Star Banners.

Auxiliary members also assist our communities in times of natural and manmade disasters through Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) courses. These trainings prepare members to act as an emergency response resource in times of natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and blizzards, as well as during manmade disasters. The Auxiliary's National Security Program works collaboratively with the FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division, in keeping with a standing agreement.

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.

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 servicemembers with pocket flags, and showing the gratitude of our nation by providing military families with Blue Star and Gold Star Banners. Download How to Plan a Send-Off or Welcome-Home Event.

POW/MIA Remembrance Services

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. Download How to Plan a POW/MIA Remembrance Service, available on the National website: alaforveterans.org Vicki Bibeau, National Security Chairman, bibeau@paulbunyan.net