AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

October 2026 Issue # 2

FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE



Military Families face unique challenges that they adjust to and deal with on a regular basis

- Families move every two to three years, which disrupts routines and child care.
- Military children often change schools six to eight times.
- One in four military spouses is unemployed or looking for work.
- Spouses and children face high stress during separations and transitions
- *(National Military Family Association)*

What can you do?

- **Volunteer your time.** Volunteer to take care of the family for a day.
- **Invite** them to an event at your Post and present them with a Blue Star Banner.
- **Share their passion.** Some of the most amazing military spouses I know spend gobs of time volunteering with organizations or programs they think are important.
- **Leave an anonymous care package at the door**. Ding-dong-ditch is extra fun when you can leave something amazing behind.
- **Listen.** Take the time to find out what she or he needs. Maybe all she/he needs is someone to talk to about what is really going on. Just listen.

Each year, the U.S. President signs a presidential proclamation declaring November as National Veterans and Military Families Month.

- Established in 1993 by the Armed Services YMCA.
- To honor the daily sacrifices, strength, and commitment of military spouses, children, and loved ones.

Military Family Appreciation Month is a time set aside to recognize the military family.
Military families know what it means to serve. Every day, they get up and support our service members, standing by during long trainings and deployments. They know the risks, but accept this life of service anyway.
The Military Family is the backbone of our military. They are the quiet, but steady fuel at home that keeps the home fires burning.
Serving is just what they do.

Traditionally, the president signs a proclamation recognizing that service and declaring November as Military Family Month. Over the month, families are honored and recognized for their commitment and contributions in support of our military and nation.



SAVE the DATE!!!!

You are invited to attend!!

Quarterly ZOOM Meetings

1. OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 20th 7pm

2. JANUARY

Tuesday, January 5th 7 pm

3. APRIL

Tuesday, April 20th 7 pm

4. August

Pre-Con TBA

Salute to Servicemembers Award

Established in 2003, this award has evolved from honoring women veterans to honoring active-duty service personal, honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country, in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve.

One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard/Reserve will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. To be held in Kansas City, Missouri, August 2027. All recipients will attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

WE are members of a Patriotic Organization with a direct link to Active-Duty Personal. Are we not proud? Is there someone in your life you wish to highlight and make aware of how proud you are to nominate them for the Service Member Award?



Hero Spotlight

We need your help to spotlight our heroes around us who don't always wear the same uniform.
These nominations can be active service members, law enforcement, firefighters, EMS personnel, and military spouses.
Tell us about your hero and why you think they should be a spotlight on our FB postings.

Submit your hero here:
https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/hero_spotlight

Like Us On facebook

ALA National Security | Facebook
Please answer all the questions to join.

Division Kudos

Eastern

New Hampshire: A 24-hour POW/MIA Vigil Watch for 9/11 was held at the NH Veterans Home with both a state Senator and Governor in attendance.

Rhode Island: Milk and cookies were delivered to 3 different fire companies to honor 9/11.

New York: Produced a September newsletter sharing info on disaster preparedness, community safety, American Legion initiatives, defense and family readiness as well as an extensive list of resource links.

Maine: 76 veterans were honored on their return from an Honor Flight.

New Jersey: $475 was donated to police, fire and ambulance and Red Cross units in honor of 9/11.

Pennsylvania: A Fall Program Fair was held and Dept. Chairman had a NS table-over 300 members attended.

Vermont: Members have been sending care packages and supporting military families at home. They are also working with the Vermont National Guard by supplying anything they might need.

Connecticut: They held a Joint Welcome Home Ceremony and honored members of the 643rd Military Police Company and the 103rd Air Control Squadron as they returned home from deployments to Guantanamo Bay and the Middle East. Soldiers and airmen were recognized for their service and dedication and presented with meritorious Service Medals and other CT state awards.

Southern

North Carolina - Members requested school supplies for the families of the 1 - 7 Air Defense Battalion, 108 Air Defense Brigade.
Participated in the Ft Bragg Armed Forces YMCA Baby Bundle event for military families
Hosting "welcome home" and send-off events, assembling care packages, presenting Blue and Gold Star banners, and running the annual Salute to Servicemembers Award honoring enlisted personnel (E1–E9) from each military branch.
Members also participated in the homecoming for the remains of Michael Swinton.

Central

In September, many states reported holding POW/MIA Day programs and remembering Patriot Day. In **West Virginia**, members went to a school, set up a POW/MIA table, and explained what it means.

Missouri held a Salute to Service Members and has National Security Warrior Wednesday, where they post something new every Wednesday to promote National Security.

Illinois did Shop with a Cop, and they have a new patch they can earn.

West Virginia made snack baskets, held dinners, and presented awards to local firemen and police.

Kansas and Wisconsin held a welcome home for our servicemen and women. They also welcomed our Veterans who were on the Honor Flight.

Michigan presented banners to the Gold Star Mothers. This was the first year a Post held a

Western

Alaska – Members attended the ribbon cutting for a new USO Center at Kodiak Coast Guard Station on Kodiak Island. This is the first USO Center to be opened on a USCG station.

Northwestern

South Dakota – Members attended a welcome home for 665th Support Maintenance Company.
Members held their POW/MIA ceremony prior to meetings.
Members wear RED on Fridays
Many units also recognized their Gold Star Mothers/Families on Gold Star Family Day