

What is Mission Training? Why are we here today?



Share the NP'S Goals for the 2024-2025 Year





Membership Retention & Growth





Discuss ALA Youth Programs and Scholarships





Review Veterans and Active-Duty Support



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3





TODAY'S GOALS



Provide inspiration to increase engagement in mission delivery



Guide engagement opportunities for member and non-member volunteers



Share the 2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary priorities including the Department Initiative

5



FVOIVE



Fostering innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity to address the changing needs of our communities. Through dedicated volunteer efforts and sustainable practices, we strive to create lasting positive impact and inspire a culture of service and engagement for all.

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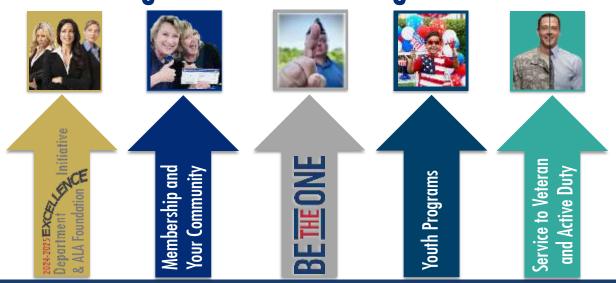


WHY WE MUST EVOLVE



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Evolving our Mission and Programs Forward



Puzzle Activity

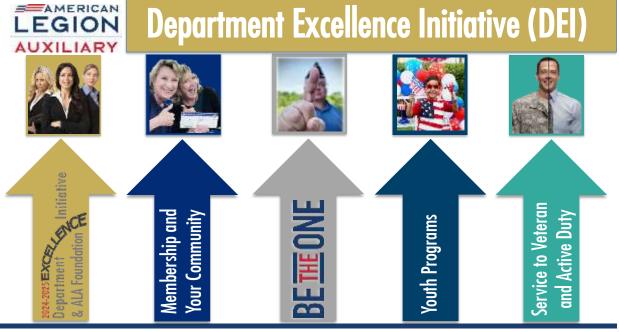


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Legion Family Video

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2024-2025 National President's Special Focus





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DEI is Comprised of Two Elements:



- Knowledge sharing on how to STOP the trend of units surrendering charters
- Focus on how to build leadership capacity
- Initiate Activism and Enable Growth
- Talk about how to strengthen our organization at the grassroots level

Department Merit Medallion Recognition



established areas of focus that if achieved, drive business and operational excellence.

- Achieve 85% Membership benchmark
 Department Impact Report
 - Governance Excellence
 - Financial Policies and Process
 - Financial Donation Obligations

Department Merit Medallion Recognition



WHAT WE KNOW

- Building Department Business Excellence drives volunteer engagement
- Demonstrating solid governance assures respect in the ranks
- Addressing key compliance and reporting requirements builds member allegiance
- Achieving financial benchmarks validates legitimacy for members and non-members

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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025



established areas of focus that, if achieved, drive business and operational excellence.





Achieve 85% of Membership Goal by March 15, 2025

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Department Impact Report Submission due by July 1, 2025

Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025

Governance Excellence









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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025 FINANCIAL POLICIES & PROCESS



990 Compliance benchmarks



Audit Standards achieved based on Department Size





Donation to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veterans Project Fund*



Donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund*

* No Minimum

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Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025

WHAT YOU'LL GET:



Recognition on Stage at Convention 2025



Signage at Convention 2025



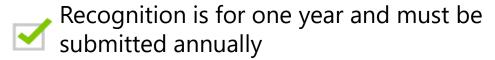
Merit Medallion Ribbon / Medal to President



Highlight in ALA Magazine

Department Merit Medallion Recognition 2024-2025

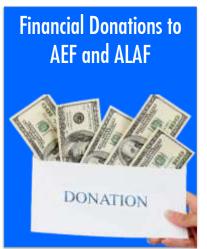
Completed and Signed Form will be due to the National Secretary by **July 1, 2025**















- Did you save a unit that was struggling and get them back on track?
- Did you form a Renew Crew that took action to support membership?
- Did you create an alliance with a community partner to revitalize a downtown experience?



...and YOU might just be featured in the ALA Magazine!

Send us an email to natlpres@alaforveterans.org and share your success!

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ALA Foundation's Veteran Projects Fund



- Grants awarded to ALA entities for new, one time need benefitting veterans, military, and their families.
- Grants awarded up to \$10,000
- Since 2013, 73 grants awarded totaling over \$345,000



Veteran Projects Fund







- Support ALA National President, Trish Ward, by making a \$35 donation to the Veteran Projects Fund and receive the ALA Challenge Card Deck.
- Scan the QR code to donate or text CARD to 1-844-940-3450

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Donate to the Veteran Projects Fund

- Text LEAD to 1-844-940-3450
- Donate online:
 https://donate.legion-aux.org/ward
- Mail a check to:

ALA Foundation 3450 Founders Road Indianapolis, IN 46268





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Membership and Your Community



- Understanding the Volunteer (and Members)
- Engagement Strategies for Different Generations
- Community Service and ALA Membership
- Maximizing the Volunteer Experience and How To Partner with Outside Organizations



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Formal vs. Informal Volunteering



Formal Volunteering:

• Volunteering through other Organization

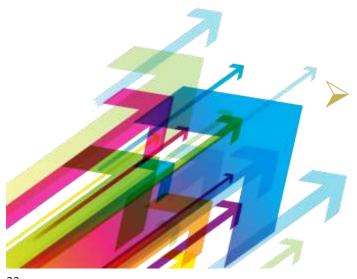


Informal Volunteering:

• Assisting others outside of organizational context



Volunteering — Post COVID



23.2% of Americans Volunteer each year

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Who is Volunteering?

Generation X

Parents with children

51% informally Volunteer

Baby Boomers & Veterans

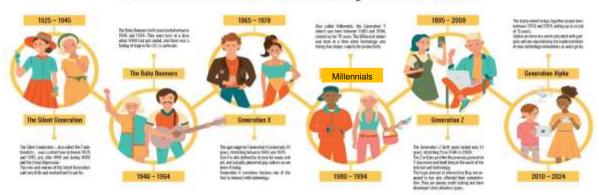


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Generational Breakdown

From 20th to 21st Century Generations

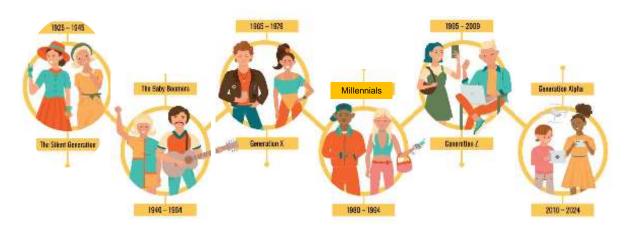


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LEGION AUXILIARY

Engagement Strategies for Generations





Creating Opportunities





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Community Service Program



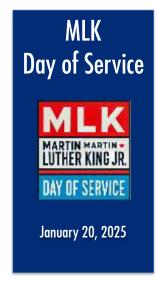


Promote the ALA's
 commitment to making our communities better places
 to live by supporting local service projects.

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Community Service







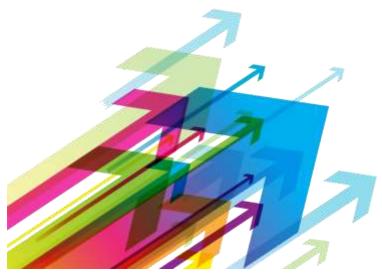


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American Legion Family Day







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Create an American Legion Family Day



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Creating a Positive Volunteer Experience



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Creating a Positive Volunteer Experience













Supportive Environment

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Volunteer Experience

Clear Communication





Volunteer Experience



Flexible Opportunities

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Volunteer Experience



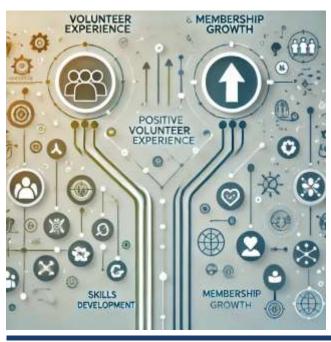
Growth Opportunities



Volunteering = Membership Growth

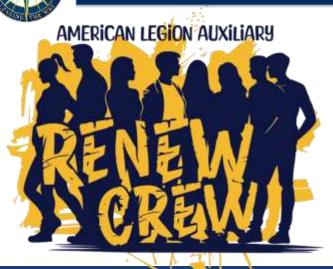


When volunteers thrive, our membership grows. By creating fulfilling volunteer experiences, staying visible in the community, and using direct recruiting efforts, we can continue to build a strong, engaged, and growing ALA community.









- These are the people who get things done...with or without a title
- These are the people who, when asked, will jump into help
- These are the people who are looking for actionable items and want to make an impact
- These are the people who are interested in moving the needle for the organization
- These are the people who are positive, innovative, and visionary
- Is that 💃



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Renew Crew Custom T



- Hit the QR Code
- Order your T-shirt

All proceeds benefit the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veterans Project Fund

Gather your Crew and don't forget to send us a picture of your "Renew Crew" in their T-shirt!

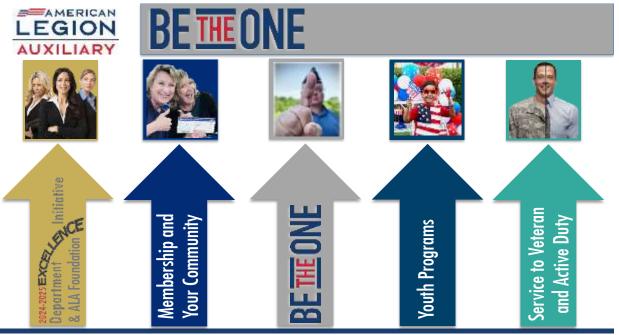




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BREAK

Please be back in 10 minutes!





VA Buddy Check Resources and BETHEONE



- Buddy Checks
- Buddy Check Week
- Call and Connect with 10
- Update on BETHONE our American Legion Family Mission
- Columbia University
 Training Get Engaged

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VA Buddy Check Resources GET INVOLVED &



Buddy Check



- Enhance peer to peer connections
- Improve mental health
- Increase awareness of VA and non-VA resources
- Take the training, get prepared and get involved to help veterans



Encourage Veterans to Connect...
or reconnect with their Veteran friends – just to check in
Play a role...All members of the Legion Family can be a



Buddy Check Week – March and Nov.

Plan to participate in Buddy Check week which builds on the success of The American Legion's Buddy Check program and the Veteran Wellness Alliance. Resolution 19 calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15 and Veterans Day.



Talk to Ten

Set a goal to "Talk to Ten" veterans during Buddy Check week. Reaching out and setting a goal is a great start in supporting the core initiatives of The American Legion.



Columbia Protocol



As part of The American Legion's **BETHEONE** mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.









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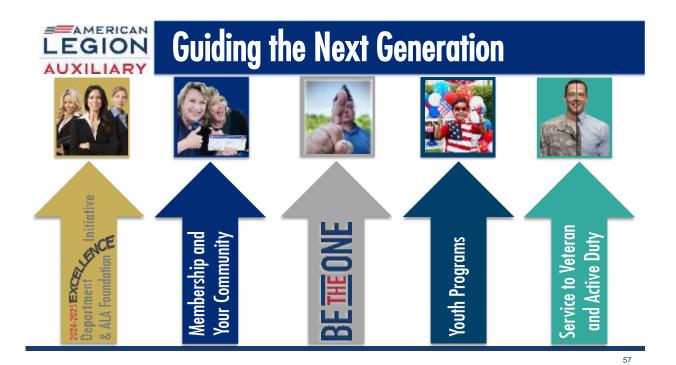


"Buddy Checks and BETHEONE"





- 1. Table Discussion Time.
- Collaborate with other members at your table to discuss activities that can be done by your unit, post and department to support "Be the One" and Buddy Check Week.
- Be ready to share your great ideas after about 10 minutes.









- ★ Why are Junior members important to The American Legion Family?
- **★** What is the best way to mentor Juniors?

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Junior Member Engagement



Include Juniors in everything you do!









Get them out in the community!

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Junior Member Engagement



Teach Juniors to Recruit

- ★ Elevator Speech
- **★** Membership Eligibility
- **★** Invite Friends









ALA Girls State!

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Junior Member Engagement



ALA Mission in the Community







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Junior Member of the Year





















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- 1. Dip thumb or finger in red inkpad and make a circle with thumbprints (four to five) in shape of a poppy. Let it dry.
- Dip thumb or finger in black inkpad and dab in the middle of each flower. Let it dry.
- 3. Make a yellow dot in the middle of each flower with marker.
- 4. Use green marker to draw skinny stems on each flower and grass along bottom.













Junior Member Engagement



















Mission-related activities:

- ✓ Poppy distributions
- ✓ Legion Family Day
- ✓ Cook-outs at the VA



In the Community:

- ✓ Visits to elder-care facilities
- ✓ Community service activities

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Junior Member Engagement



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Be a Junior's Mentor:

- ✓ Include Juniors in everything ALA!
- ✓ Stay Mission Focused!
- ✓ Keep it FUN!

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Junior Member Engagement



"Juniors aren't our future leaders, they ARE leaders."*

*Stephanie Cutter, Junior Chair Department of Indiana

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ALA Youth Programs



★ How do we use our Youth Programs to engage nonmembers in the community?

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ALA Youth Programs



"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"



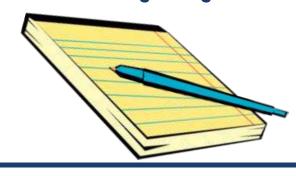
Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

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"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"



- Take a few minutes to begin writing your own Americanism Essay.
- 2. We will discuss as a group how to judge essays and how the Americanism Essay Contest furthers the mission of the ALA.



ALA Youth Programs











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ALA Youth Programs



- ★ Youth Hero Award
 - Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor.



- ★ Good Deed Award
 - Youth should demonstrate leadership in community service.





- 1. Discuss at your table what makes a good nomination.
- 2. We will discuss as a group what makes a good nomination and how to find them.

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ALA Youth Programs









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ALA Youth Programs



















ALA Scholarships



Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

15 - \$5,000 scholarships - for direct descendants of wartime veterans

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

5 - \$2,000 scholarships - for Legion Family members, veterans, and veteran & military spouses

Spirit of Youth Scholarship

- 5 \$5,000 scholarships And up to 47 - \$1,000 scholarships
- for Junior members graduating high school

Member Loyalty Scholarship

10 - \$2,500 scholarships

- for current college students who are ALA members and former Junior members

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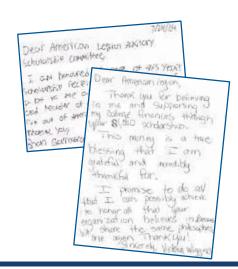
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LEGION AUXILIARY

ALA Scholarships











Department & Unit Scholarships





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ALA Scholarships



- 1. Discuss at your table:
 - A. What are keywords to get people interested?
 - B. What are ways you can help students complete the application?
 - C. How can you use this to recruit for membership?
- 2. We will discuss your answers as a large group.



Background Checks & Child Safety Training

- ★ Anyone working directly with youth must pass a background check and child safety training.
- ★ This not only protects the children, but it protects you and our organization.

www.protectyouthsports.com



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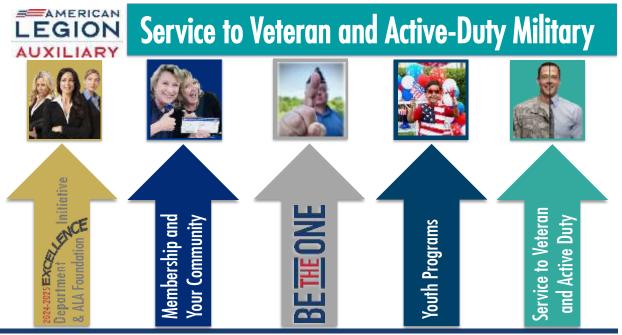
Junior Ceremony





LUNCH BREAK

12:15pm — 1:30pm





Service to Veteran and Active Duty Military



- The Changing Face of the military and their families
- Finding the military in your community
- Creating partnerships to support the military in your community
- The changing face of veterans and their families and nonfamilial caregiving
- Leveraging local resources to locate veterans in your community
- Supporting & working with outside organizations

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The Changing Face of the Military and their Families

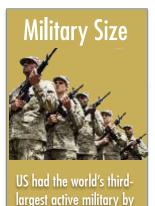
In 2000.



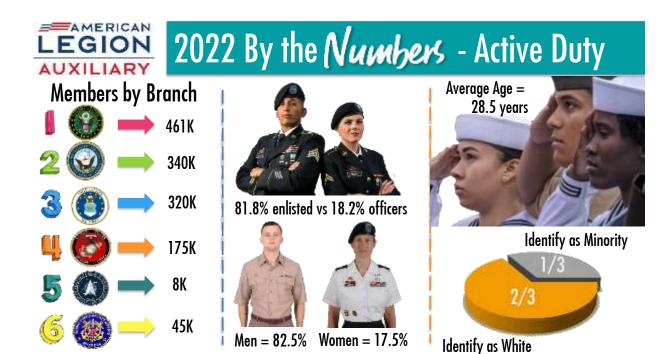




enlisted personnel and 20% of officers.



^{*} Military Stats FY22 https://demographics.militaryonesource.mil



By the Numbers - Reserve and Guard Members by Branch 330K Army National Guard Average Age = 176K 31.9 years 105K r National Guard 82.4% enlisted vs 17.6% officers **68K** Force Reserve **Identify as Minority** 55K Navy Reserve 33K Marine Corps Reserve 6K Men = 78.4% Women = 21.6% **Identify** as White Coast Guard Reserve

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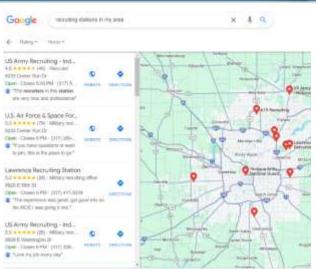


Finding Military Recruiters in your Area



Good to know...!!

- Military recruiters are assigned to all parts of the country — even rural areas.
- Most of these assignments place them and their families far from the support and services found on military installations.
- Don't know where a local recruiting station is?
 Use the power of Google!
- Remember that recruiting for Space Force goes through Air Force Recruiting for now.
- Don't forget National Guard/Reserve Recruiting too.





- Grab a piece of paper and a pen.
- You have two minutes to persuade a recruiting station commander that the ALA can help their recruiters, staff and families.
- Rules: Failure is not an option! 3.
- 4. 15 minutes to craft your speech.
- 5. Ready ... GO!
- After Action...Let's share with some role playing.





that 14% of almost 4.500 enlisted

active-duty family respondents

reported low or very low food

security

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delay or stymie earning capacity

Finding new employment after a

move is daunting and challenging



Creating



in your Community

Armed Services YMCA www.asymca.org

The American Legion Auxiliary has a memorandum of understanding with ASYMCA to provide financial support.

For more information, listing of locations and affiliate locations or interested in volunteering or donating, visit their website at https://asymca.org



Remember!

Poppy Funds can be donated directly to ASYMCA Food Pantry Managers to purchase items of necessity.



ARMED SERVICES YMCA



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Creating



in your Community

Military Spouse Employment Program

The Military Spouse Employment Partnership is an initiative of the Department of Defense's Spouse Education and Career Opportunities programs that aims to help military spouses find jobs.



- Become one of 440 partners who support the initiative and help provide employment opportunities for spouses of the military.
- Serve as a mentor to assist, support, and connect military spouses to helpful resources, job fairs, and career paths that offer options and information about the job market.

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The Changing Face of Veterans and CAREGIVING



Veterans who served in the last 30 years make up the largest number of living veterans



Why we care: The needs of Gulf War-era veterans may be different than those of previous generations

The share of the U.S. population with military experience has declined



Why we care: The veteran pool is shrinking which means the opportunities to engage may also shrink

The VA projects that the number of living veterans will continue to decline over the next 25



Why we care: By 2046, WWII, Vietnam veterans will no longer be living so our service model will need to align with the needs of those veterans who served in the Gulf era.

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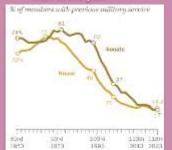
The Changing Face of Veterans and CAREGIVING



As the number of veterans declines over the next 25 years, their demographics will shift

Why we care: More female veterans will be present in the veteran population so services may need to adjust to enhance to better align with the needs of women

Fewer members of Congress have military experience than in the past



Why we care: The Lawmakers and legislators will not understand the importance of serving the veteran community making VSO engagement more critical

Most Americans view the 6 **Department of Veterans Affairs** favorably



Why we care: Assuring that citizens find value in the VA assures that continued attention to funding and services will remain a priority for lawmakers.

The Changing Face of Veterans and CARESIVING

How You Can Help...











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The Changing Face of Veterans and CAREGIVING

Welcome to the Military & Veteran Caregiver Experience Map

Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Philips, and the Department of Veterans Affairs have partnered to document the journey of military and veteran caregivers

Get the Map!

Caregiverjourney. Elizabeth dole foundation.org







Caregiver Support

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Working with Outside Organizations



Search Other Service Organizations:

 Investigate other service organizations whose mission is in alignment with serving veterans



Align with Local Businesses

 Partner with local businesses to create awareness for the purpose of seeking veterans who are in need of assistance



Query

- Realtors
- Public Service Personnel (trash, postal, utilities)
- First Responders
- Chamber of Commerce

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Working with Outside Organizations



Research for Data and Analytics:

- National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
- State Director of Veterans Affairs
- Military Families Research Institute



Explore Faith Based Organizations

 Open dialogue with spiritual leaders and investigate places of worship for veterans who may need assistance





Participate in Community Outreach

- Connect with foodbanks, senior centers, shelters, senior living communities to identify veterans needs
- Query municipal leadership to discover if there is an opportunity for veteran outreach

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Arts and Healing in the Military Community

Since 2000, the American Legion Auxiliary has been a co-presenter of the Festival.



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival May 11-18, 2025 • Indianapolis, Indiana

Categories Include:

- Oil Painting
- Leatherwork
- Paint-by-number kits
- Writing Categories
- Dance
- Drama
- Music



Arts and Healing in the Military Community

How to Support the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



There are two excellent found on the VA&R Committee page:

- How to Support the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
- How to Facilitate a Local Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Download these helpful documents and get started supporting NVCAF Today!

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Working with Outside Organizations



Poppy Funds can be used to support Honor Flight!

There are 3 Ways Poppy Funds can be used:

- Money can be donated directly to Honor Flight hubs in your area or to Honor Flight Lone Eagle program. Visit: loneeagle.honorflight.org for more info!
- Donating directly to Honor Flight Inc. Visit www.honorflight.org/donations for more info
- Purchasing from the authorized list of acceptable support items (food, nutrition, oxygen, etc). A complete list of items can be found on their website



www.honorflight.org

The mission of the honor flight network is one of gratitude. For their service, sacrifice, and selflessness.

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HonorFlight_v2.mp4

Honor Flight Video – if you want to watch (we will insert): Click blue link at top

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Working with Outside Organizations



Programs: The MVCN helps caregivers of all eras and at all stages of caregiving by providing access to three peer support programs:

- Online Peer Support Community
- Peer Mentor Support Program
- Peer Support Groups (Online & Community-Based)

Services: The MVCN helps caregivers of all eras and at all stages, including partners and supporters, by providing access to two public caregiver-focused services

- Resource Library
- Master Calendar



Military and Veteran Caregiver Network

www.redcross.org

Select → Get Help Then Select → Military Families

Then Scroll Down and Select \rightarrow



The Military and Veteran Caregiver Program (MVCN) offers peer-based support and services to connect those providing care to service members and veterans living with wounds, illnesses, injuries and/or aging.

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Supporting Families when a Veteran has Passed





Programs: TAPS has many resources to support those who are experiencing grief and loss

- Survivor Helpline
- Survivor Care Team
- Grief Counseling

VOLUNTEER!

Sign up to volunteer with TAPS

From the Main Menu, select Support Taps → Volunteer

- Events and Camps
- Mentoring
- Group Volunteers



TAPS is the national nonprofit organization providing compassionate care and comprehensive resources for all those grieving a death in the military or veteran community

Since 1994, TAPS has provided comfort and hope 24/7 through a national peer support network and connection to grief resources, all at no cost to surviving families and loved ones.

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Supporting Wreaths Across America

Our American Legion Family works with Wreaths Across America to support those left behind and honor the Veteran's memory

Before Christmas: Locate WAA activities near you on their website. Check out 'Get Involved'.

After Christmas: Think about how to plan for future WAA Days.

WAA Day 2024: December 14

"Every man has two deaths, when he is buried in the ground and the last time someone says his name. In some ways men can be immortal."

~Ernest Hemingway

Wreaths across America www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

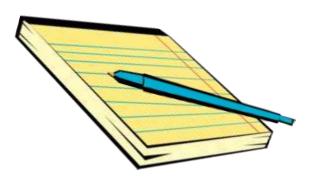


- Remember the fallen, Honor those who served, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.
- Volunteers are the "beating heart" of the program and work year-round to share this important mission and inspire others to join.

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Service to Veterans and Active Duty Military





"Commit to Veterans"

- 1. Think about the opportunities presented in this segment.
- Write down 2-3 take-aways. Something you learned, something you didn't know, something you will do.
- Develop an action plan to commit to supporting veterans in your community.

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Implementing Mission Training



But you do not have to do it all







Shout from the Rooftops!



- Reporting Why do we want to know?
- ✓ Tell our Storytellers (Communication Staff)
- Our Impact





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