

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Texas
2026 – 2027 National Security Program Engagement Plan

Purpose: The National Security Program is to ensure that our **Active Duty** Servicemembers and their families receive assistance when they need it.

Ways your Unit can participate in the National Security Program

- **ASMYCA-** Donate to or volunteer at local Armed Services YMCA food pantries, which support service members and their families. We, as the American Legion Family, help to support the two ASYMCA's with back-to-school drives and assist with their Holiday Baskets at Thanksgiving every year. In San Antonio, they are working to open the third ASYMCA in the state of Texas. They currently have a day care that parents can drop their young children off while they go to doctor's appointments. Soon they will have a food bank open, and the need to help our active-duty families will increase.
- **Wreaths Across America** - www.wreathsacrossamerica.org. This will give you information on how to donate wreaths to be placed in cemetery to honor our veterans and service members who made the ultimate sacrifice. The more wreaths you sponsor, the cheaper they are. Just to give you an idea of how many wreaths are needed at each Texas National Cemetery, here are the numbers I found.
 - **Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery (San Antonio): Over 170,000 graves**
 - **Houston National Cemetery (Houston): Over 111,000 graves**
 - **Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery (Dallas): Over 73,000 graves**
 - **Fort Bliss National Cemetery (El Paso): 70,000 graves**
 - **San Antonio National Cemetery & Kerrville National Cemetery:**
 - **Smaller historic/active grounds (Kerrville holds - 515 graves)**
- Let's work together to place a wreath on **EVERY** grave. Last year, more than half of these men and women did not receive a wreath. Each day, more veterans are laid to rest in our National Cemeteries, and they deserve to always be remembered.
- **POW/MIA Empty Chair** - Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.
- **Host a Blood Drive** - Every one of us is essential to moving the world forward. Vitalant needs to collect more than 4,500 blood donations every day to meet patient needs, so this is an opportunity to transform your life and the lives of so many others. You will need to engage your network to raise awareness of blood drive, educate donors about the constant need for blood, and be enthusiastic, persistent, and resolute.
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- **Quilts of Valor-** www.qovf.org This organization started in 2003 by Catherine Roberts with the idea to comfort our service members and veterans with a quilt during the time her son deployed in Iraq. Their goal is to get “**EVERY**” service member and veteran covered with a comforting Quilt of Valor. The nomination process is easy and all online on their main website. From the time of nomination to the time the Quilt of Valor is complete, it takes up to 3 months. Special requests for items to include in the quilt may be requested, and that is the reason there is that timeline given.
- **The estimated cost to make a single quilt:**
 - Fabric 10 to 12 yards **(\$150)**
 - Batting- 2 to 3 yards **(\$25)**
 - Thread and Needles **(\$5)**
 - Longarming **(\$150)**
 - Labor- 20 to 30 Hours **(\$250)**
 - Total per Quilt **(\$580)**

Donations to a local or national Quilt of Valor Guild always appreciated. If you would like to help present Quilts of Valor, volunteers needed for award ceremonies. There are so many ways you and your Unit can support the Quilts of Valor program.

- **“Ways your Unit can participate in the National Security Program.”**
 - **Wear RED on Fridays** - (Remember Everyone Deployed) TAKE AND SUBMIT PHOTOS!
 - **Find your local Recruiter Offices** - Make it a Legion Family event including your Sons and Legion Riders. Donate a gift basket! Put snacks, Drinks, Legion Family swag, and anything else you choose. This is an AMAZING recruiting opportunity as well (Do not forget applications)!
 - **Become CERT Certified** - (Citizen Emergency Response Team) – this is free training to become certified to help when a disaster happens you can also take a First Aid class. Host a CPR class at your Unit.
 - **Care Packages** - Send Care Packages, send cards, and partner with other Veteran Service Organizations that also do this.
 - **Locate and support Blue Star Families** - Blue Star Families is a nationwide nonprofit that connects military and Veteran families with their surrounding communities and organizations that support them. By becoming a member, you will be part of a community where you can access local and national resources, participate in social and professional networking opportunities, and get involved in events and programs designed specifically to support military and Veteran families.
- **Who can be a member?**
 - Active-Duty, National Guard, and Reserve personnel
 - Military family members
 - Veterans and their families
 - Civilian supporters

For more information on the National Security Program research the National website www.legion-aux.org.

- **Awards:** Certificate to all units that submit a narrative/Plaque overall Report please include pictures (Jpeg) with your reporting.
- **Report is due no later than May15, 2027**

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