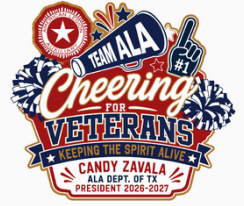


AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
PO BOX 1629, LITTLE ELM, TX 75068



BI-MONTHLY BULLETIN
214-733-7945
SECRETARY@ALATEXAS.ORG

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SEPT/OCT 2026
WWW.ALATEXAS.ORG



INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

SEPTEMBER



7TH	LABOR DAY
11TH	PATRIOT DAY
17TH	CONSTITUTION DAY
18TH	POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
18TH	AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY
19TH	NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
25TH	PRESIDENT SCHOOL
26TH-27TH	FALL DEC
27TH	GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY



OCTOBER

8TH	NATIONAL HERO DAY
12TH	COLUMBUS DAY
13TH	NAVY BIRTHDAY
26TH	NATIONAL DAY OF THE DEPLOYED
28TH	NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY
31ST	HALLOWEEN





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Texas

SERVICE ★ NOT SELF ★ FOR VETERANS ★ FOR COMMUNITIES



Department President's MESSAGE



Dear Members,

As we begin another exciting administrative year, I am reminded of the incredible strength, dedication, and enthusiasm that exists within our American Legion Auxiliary family. This year, we are **"Cheering for Our Veterans and Keeping the Spirit Alive!"** Every member has an important role to play as we continue our mission of supporting our veterans, their families, and our communities.

Our year ahead is filled with opportunities to learn, connect, serve, and have a little fun along the way! Whether you are a longtime member or new to the Auxiliary, I encourage you to get involved, share your talents, and cheer one another on. Together, we can keep the spirit of service alive!

Same Mission.
Bigger Impact! ♥

HONOR
SUPPORT
SERVE
TOGETHER



Together We Make a Difference! ♥



FALL DEC — LET'S GET READY TO CHEER!

Fall DEC is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to bringing our Department leadership and members together. DEC is a wonderful opportunity to receive important updates, conduct the business of our Department, learn about our programs, and prepare for the months ahead.

Come ready to participate, learn, and encourage one another. And, of course, don't forget your cheerleader spirit! Let's fill Fall DEC with enthusiasm as we work together for our veterans!

Let's Cheer Together! ♥



ZOOM MEETINGS & TRAINING FOR ALL MEMBERS

One of our goals this year is to make training and information accessible to every member. Throughout the year, we will be offering Zoom meetings and training opportunities covering a variety of topics.

These sessions are not just for Department or District leaders — they are for ALL members!

If you have ever wondered how something works, wanted to learn more about an Auxiliary program, needed help with ALAMIS, or simply wanted to understand more about the organization you belong to, I encourage you to join us.

Watch for announcements with dates, times, and Zoom information. Grab your favorite beverage, turn on your computer or phone, and join us as we learn together!

Learn ★ Share ★ Grow ★ Together



A NEW YEAR & A NEW ALAMIS AND ELIGIBILITY

The new administrative year also brings changes and opportunities with ALAMIS and eligibility. As we transition into the new system, please take the time to become familiar with the updates and make sure your unit information and membership records are kept current. Department is aware that updates still need to be made to our website regarding these changes. Please bear with us as we navigate this process along with you.

Change can sometimes feel overwhelming, but remember — we are a team! We will learn together, ask questions, and help one another along the way. Keeping our information accurate and up to date helps our Department and our units serve our members and veterans more effectively.

Learn ★ Support ★ Keep Moving Forward! ♥

Service Lives in Our Hearts ♥



KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE

Our veterans have given us so much. The work we do through the American Legion Auxiliary is one way we can honor their service and sacrifice. Every volunteer hour, every program completed, every veteran served, and every member encouraged makes a difference.

This year, let's celebrate what we can accomplish together.

- ♥ Let's cheer for our veterans.
- ♥ Let's cheer for our members.
- ♥ Let's cheer for our units.
- ♥ Let's cheer for one another.
- ♥ Most importantly, let's keep the spirit of service alive!

I am excited about the year ahead and grateful for each of you who continues to give your time, talents, and heart to the American Legion Auxiliary. I look forward to seeing you at Fall DEC, joining you in our Zoom trainings, and celebrating the accomplishments of our Department throughout the year.

Let's make some noise, Texas! ♥

With Auxiliary Pride,

Candy Zavala

Department President
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Texas



Texas Proud Auxiliary Proud ♥

HONOR ★ SUPPORT ★ SERVE ★ TOGETHER



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Texas

SERVICE ★ NOT SELF ★ FOR VETERANS ★ FOR COMMUNITIES

*Texas
Strong
Always* ♥

*Cheering
for Our Veterans
and Keeping the
Spirit Alive!* ♥

Invite Our
**DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT**
to Your Event! ★

UNITS ★ DISTRICTS ★ DEPARTMENT EVENTS ★

*Same
Mission.
Bigger
Impact!* ♥

We Would Love to Be There!

Our Department President would love to attend your Unit, District, and Department events!

Attending your events is a wonderful opportunity to meet our members, celebrate your accomplishments, share in your special moments, and continue working together for our veterans, their families, and our communities.

*Together
We Make
a Difference!* ♥

★ IT'S EASY TO REQUEST A VISIT! ★

- ★ 1 Complete the Department President Visit Request Form.
- ★ 2 Provide your event details (date, time, location, and a brief description).
- ★ 3 Submit the form.
- ★ 4 Our Department President will be in touch!

*Request a Visit
Today!* →



OR VISIT: bit.ly/4cQ07cV

Thank you for all you do! ♥

HONOR ★ SUPPORT ★ SERVE ★ TOGETHER

*Service
Lives in
Our Hearts* ♥

CHEER Into Fall DEC

★ Get Ready to Cheer, Celebrate & Show Your Spirit! ★

It's time to grab your pom-poms, put on your spirit gear, and get ready for an exciting weekend! We're bringing **TEAM SPIRIT, PATRIOTIC PRIDE, FRIENDSHIP, AND A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION** to Fall DEC!

Whether you're cheering from the sidelines or joining the competition, there will be plenty of opportunities to **SHOW YOUR SPIRIT!**

Friday

RED SHIRT FRIDAY

"Stand Up & Show Your Support!"



Kick off the weekend by showing your support for our veterans!

Wear your RED SHIRT!

- ★ Show your support
- ★ Stand proud for those who served
- ★ Let's fill the room with RED and show everyone what happens when our team comes together!

GO TEAM!

Saturday

FALL DEC PEP RALLY & TAILGATE PARTY

"Bring the Spirit. Bring the Pride. Bring the Energy!"

★ Show Your Patriotic Pride! ★

Dress to show your patriotic pride!

- ★ Red, white & blue outfit
- ★ Patriotic shirt or accessories
- ★ Patriotic costume
- ★ Stars & stripes
- ★ Anything that screams **AMERICAN PRIDE!**



★ And don't forget your cheering voice and team spirit!

THE CHEER COMPETITION IS ON!

Think your Unit, District, Division or Committee has what it takes to be the loudest, most spirited team? Then it's time to **CHEER!**



WIN A PRIZE!

★ **EARN BRAGGING RIGHTS!** ★



GET YOUR NAME ON THE PLAQUE!

The winning team's name will be added to a special plaque that will be saved as a lasting memento of our Fall DEC cheer competitions.

Fall DEC is only the beginning!

The competition will continue at:
Fall DEC ★ Midwinter ★ Department Convention

Who will take home the first win?

Will it be a Unit? A District? A Division? Or a Committee?

★ **BRING YOUR BEST CHEER!** ★

Sunday

DERBY DAY!

Hats, Fascinators & Southern Flair!

Sunday is time to trade your pom-poms for hats and fascinators!

DERBY DAY HAS ARRIVED!

Grab your favorite:

- ★ Big Derby Hat
- ★ Fabulous Fascinator
- ★ Floral Headpiece
- ★ Fun & Fancy Hat

Come ready to have a little fun and show off your Derby Day style!

*And remember—
the bigger, brighter,
and more fabulous
the hat, the better!*



★ Let's Get This Fall DEC Weekend Started! ★

FRIDAY
Wear RED!

SATURDAY
Go Patriotic & Cheer!

SUNDAY
Bring on the Derby Hats!

BE LOUD ★ BE PROUD ★ SHOW YOUR SPIRIT ★ CHEER FOR YOUR TEAM!



★ ★ ★
Save the Date

Danny Peter Muth

★ and ★

Candy Zavala's

HOMECOMING



WHEN:
MARCH 6,
2027



WHERE:
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 539
ST. HEDWIG, TX



TIME:
5 PM –
11 PM



CHEERING ON OUR
VETERANS
AND KEEPING THE
Spirit Alive.

★ **MORE INFORMATION TO COME.** ★





SCAM ALERT

PLEASE STAY VIGILANT!



Scammers are targeting members by impersonating **Department President Candy Zavala, District Presidents, and District Commanders.**



THEY MAY ASK YOU TO:

- Purchase gift cards
- Send money
- Click on links
- Provide personal information

PLEASE REMEMBER:



We will **NEVER** ask you to purchase gift cards or send money via text or email.



Be cautious of unexpected messages, even if they appear to be from someone you know.



Always verify unusual requests by calling the individual **directly** using a phone number you already have.



Do not click on unfamiliar links or open unexpected attachments.



Your vigilance helps protect our entire American Legion Family!



Together, let's protect our mission,
EACH OTHER, AND OUR VETERANS.

★ *For God and Country* ★

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY • DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS





2026 – 2027 AMERICANISM DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

Serving:

BULLETIN #1

1 st Division Chrmn:	Marty Peters	marty54@sbcglobal.net	817-475-2885
2 nd Division:	Phil Gonzales	pdgonzales7@gmail.com	817-879-4236
3 rd Division:	Marla Ebner	marlaebner@yahoo.com	361-798-8704
4 TH Division	Linda Dorsett	lm.dorsett@yahoo.com	432-425-4705

Facebook page: [ALA Americanism in Texas](#)

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. Standing Rule #6, Core National Standing Committees

FACEBOOK

Have you “liked and followed” our facebook page? We are sharing almost daily Americanism facts, history, activities, and ideas. Please join us and share us with your unit members.

HURRAY – We have our 2026-2027 theme!!!

“How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?”

Personally I fear the children may have a little trouble grasping how to write on this topic so I have received some “AI” ideas for each grade level that I am attaching to this bulletin with the author’s permission if you wish to use it.

AMERICANISM includes “Get out the VOTE”!!

Show us on the facebook page what your unit has already done in the Americanism program so far this year!!!

Our committee is looking forward to sharing FUN, time and information with you at DEC. Safe travels!

~Marty, Phil, Marla and Linda

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Understanding This Year's Essay Theme Grades 3–4

“How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?”

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

What does the question mean?

A beacon is a light that helps guide people. A lighthouse is one example. Being a “beacon of light” for a veteran means doing something that brings kindness, appreciation, encouragement, or friendship to a veteran.

Think about it

- Who is a veteran?
- Why should we thank and remember veterans?
- What is one thing YOU could do to make a veteran feel special or appreciated?
- How could a small act of kindness make a difference?

You could write about...

Writing a thank-you note • Visiting or talking with a veteran • Listening to a veteran's story • Helping a veteran • Taking part in Veterans Day activities • Learning about veterans • Showing respect for our country

Sentence starters

“To me, being a beacon of light means...”

“One way I can be a light for a veteran is...”

“I think this is important because...”

“I would want a veteran to know...”

Remember: There is no single right answer. Think about what being a light for a veteran means to YOU.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Understanding This Year's Essay Theme Grades 5–6

“How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?”

UNDERSTANDING THE IDEA

What does “beacon of light” mean?

A beacon is a light that helps people find their way. In this essay, it is a way of describing how your actions can help a veteran feel appreciated, remembered, encouraged, or supported.

Think about it

- What have veterans done for our country?
- What sacrifices might they or their families have made?
- What can a young person do to show genuine appreciation?
- Why can small acts of kindness matter?

Possible directions

You might write about something you have done, something you would like to do, or an idea that schools and communities could use to support veterans.

Sentence starters

“When I hear the words ‘beacon of light,’ I think of...”

“Veterans deserve our appreciation because...”

“I can be a beacon of light by...”

“This would make a difference because...”

Remember: There is no single right answer. Think about what being a light for a veteran means to YOU.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Understanding This Year's Essay Theme Grades 7–8

“How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?”

FROM KINDNESS TO ACTION

Look beyond the words

A beacon does more than shine. It can guide, encourage, reassure, and give hope. Think about how your actions could make a real difference in the life of a veteran.

Think about it

- What does a veteran give up or sacrifice through military service?
- What might a veteran need from a community after serving?
- What can students do—not just say—to show appreciation?
- How could your school, family, or community be a light for veterans?

Build your own idea

Choose one or more actions that matter to you. Explain WHY they would help. A strong essay can include a personal experience, an example, or a specific idea for making a difference.

Sentence starters

“Being a beacon of light for our veterans means more than simply saying ‘thank you’ because...”

“One way young people can make a difference is...”

“This matters to veterans because...”

“If more people did this, I believe...”

Remember: There is no single right answer. Think about what being a light for a veteran means to YOU.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Understanding This Year's Essay Theme Grades 9–10

“How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?”

THINKING ABOUT SERVICE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Look deeper

The phrase “beacon of light” can represent gratitude, hope, encouragement, respect, and support. Consider what responsibility individuals and communities have toward those who have served.

Questions to consider

- What sacrifices do veterans make for others?
- What challenges can veterans face after military service?
- What does meaningful appreciation look like?
- How can young people support veterans in practical ways?
- What could schools and communities do better?

Develop your argument

Choose an idea you believe would make a meaningful difference. Explain your reasoning, give examples, and consider the effect your actions could have on veterans and on the people around you.

Sentence starters

“To me, being a beacon of light for veterans means...”

“Our responsibility to veterans should include...”

“One meaningful way I can help is...”

“The impact of this action could be...”

Remember: There is no single right answer. Think about what being a light for a veteran means to YOU.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Understanding This Year's Essay Theme Grades 11–12

“How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?”

FROM GRATITUDE TO PURPOSE

Consider the bigger picture

A beacon of light can symbolize guidance, hope, recognition, and a reminder that someone is not forgotten. Consider what it means for a generation that has not served in the military to honor and support those who have.

Questions to consider

- What do veterans' sacrifices make possible for others?
- What responsibilities do citizens have toward veterans?
- What does genuine support look like beyond ceremonies and words?
- How can young people influence their schools and communities?
- What specific action could you take, and why would it matter?

Make your essay your own

You do not need to choose the biggest or most impressive idea. Choose something you believe in and explain it thoughtfully. Use examples, personal observations, or experiences to show why your idea would make a difference.

Possible openings

“A beacon of light is not simply a source of brightness; it is a source of...”

“When a nation asks its citizens to serve, it also creates a responsibility to...”

“I believe the most meaningful way I can be a beacon of light for veterans is...”

“Being a beacon of light requires more than gratitude because...”

Remember: There is no single right answer. Think about what being a light for a veteran means to YOU.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

♥ Department of Texas

CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM

2026-2027



Hope
Strength
Cures
♥



Texans
Fighting
For a
Brighter
Tomorrow
♥

Cheer for the Cure

September and October are premier global cancer awareness months. As we honor survivors, remember loved ones, and support those currently fighting, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas calls upon all Units and members to make a powerful, life-saving impact.

Through our "Cheer for a Cure" initiative, we unite our voices and resources to fund critical breakthroughs.

100% of your designated donations are combined to award **vital research grants** directly to medical pioneers at **MD Anderson Cancer Center**, transforming cutting-edge scientific discovery into real cures.



WHY YOUR CONTRIBUTION MATTERS

Every single dollar raised stays **right here in Texas**, directly funding research fellowships and **grants** at **MD Anderson**. Your generosity provides scientists with the resources needed to pioneer new treatments, discover early detection methods, and ultimately eradicate cancer.

Together
We Can
Make a
Difference
♥

HOW YOU CAN DONATE TODAY



1. Donate Online:

Visit the official portal at
<https://alatexas.org/products-supplies/make-a-donation/>

Select the option to donate by Check or Credit Card, and explicitly note
"Cancer Research / Cheer for a Cure"
in the description or comments field to ensure your funds are correctly routed.



2. Donate by Mail:

Make checks payable to:
ALA Department of Texas

Write "Cancer Research Program" or "Cheer for a Cure" in the memo line.

Mail your contribution directly to:
ALA Department of Texas
PO Box 1629
Little Elm, TX 75068-1629

★ *In the spirit of Service, Not Self,* ★
let us join together to find a cure.

RESEARCH ♥ HOPE ♥ STRONGER TOMORROW

Thank You
from the
Cancer Research
Committee
♥

Hola Texas!

It's a new administrative year and we are up and running. As you know, we had a lot of changes to our Department governing documents in July and the updated Constitutional and Bylaws are on the website along with your C&B Program Engagement Plans. (PEP)

Something you want to take a very good look at and include in your unit governing documents, is the section on member discipline. We've outlined some very specific guidelines you will need to follow. Also, we just got back from National and there are going to be some very BIG changes coming so stay tuned. We'll get those changes out to you when we get them from National and just like last year, we'll send you a NEW and IMPROVED cheat sheet.

In other news, September 17th is National Constitution Day and once again we are asking you to take a picture of yourself or your unit as a group, reviewing your C&Bs and either send it to the C&B chair Teresa or tag her on the photo on Facebook and you will go into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift card to be picked at DEC. BTW, several pictures from last year made it to the big screen at National. Kudos Texas!

Speaking of Dec the C&B committee will be there and hope to see you all on Saturday for another fun event. Don't forget to wear your red, white and blue!

Lastly, for those of you that sent in your C&B last year for review, your certificates will be at DEC. Let's have another awesome year!

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Texas

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Ronica Hutson, Division 1

ronicahutson@hotmail.com

Mary Sanchez, Division 2

mcatsanchez@yahoo.com

Teresa Copeland, Division 3 Chair

Tscunit37@gmail.com



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

MEET THE COMMITTEE

The ALA National Constitution and Bylaws Committee is ready to get to work! We are here to help you with questions and even with a dilemma or pickle. We are looking forward to working with you. Be on the look out for Newsletters, Webinars, and Meetings as the year progresses. Each National Committee Member will support a Division as indicated.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Anita Biggs - Committee Chair/ Southern Division
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DeDe Theal - Committee Member/ Central Division
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Virginia Chaput - Committee Member/ Northwestern Division
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Marty Peters - Committee Member/ Eastern Division
marty54@sbcglobal.net / 817-475-2885





ANITA BIGGS
Committee Chair
Southern Division

I am a 34-year honorary lifetime member of Jackie Robinson Unit 252 located in Los Angeles; CA. I was elected and served as Department President during 2013-2014. My path did not take a pre-defined direction. Having reached the national leadership of the organization in 2005 as Unit Development & Revitalization National Chairman, I went on to chair the National Membership Committee and NEC (2014-2015), served as Western Division Chairman for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (2016-2017), ALA Girls Nation (2011-2012) and (2018-2019), Americanism (2019-2021), Auxiliary Emergency Fund (2021-2022), Leadership (2022-2023), Public Relations (2023-2024), National Community Service Chair (2024-2025) and National Junior Activities Chair (2025-2026); as well as serving on the National Committees of Legislative, Membership and UD&R, a 5 year commitment from (2014-2019) on the Centennial Strategic Planning Committee as a Goal 1 Champion for Enhancing Membership Strength and member of the Future Focus Committee. I am a proud recipient of the Sons of The American Legion Post 13 Hall of Fame Award, recognized for my involvement with The American Legion Family.

I have served as 23rd District President (2005-2006), Jackie Robinson Unit 252 President (2000-2001) and most offices and chairmanships on all levels. Being extremely active in my Auxiliary Unit, District and Department, with leadership positions on all levels; currently serving as Unit Treasurer; Unit, District and Department Parliamentarian and Department Convention Commission Chairman. I continue to be a proud member and current Captain of the National American Legion Military Open Class award winner, Jackie Robinson Unit 252 Color Guard.

I am eligible for the American Legion Auxiliary through the service of my late father, William "Chief" Johnson, who retired after 30 years in the United States Navy and actively served The American Legion. I made a commitment to my father to continue his legacy and give back by helping veterans as my volunteer priority.

I am married to Lonnie, together we have three adult children, Chiara, Lonnie and Dillon; all are members of The American Legion family and seven grandchildren.

I am retired after working in the banking /mortgage industry for over 40 years.



LESLIE GINTHER
Committee Vice Chair
Western Division

My eligibility to be a member of the ALA is through my two grandfathers, who served: Charles Moses, who served in the Air Force during WWII, and Curtis Cronin, who served in the Navy and Air Force during the Vietnam Era. Raised around the American Legion, my grandfather instilled in me that if you didn't serve in the military, you should serve by giving back to those who did. Membership in the ALA is something I hold dear to my heart. I am married to my wonderful husband, Josh Ginther, who is active in the S.A.L. and my biggest supporter. I have worked in insurance for nearly 15 years, having recently transitioned from personal lines insurance to Municipal insurance for the State of Alabama.

I have served in several positions on the Unit, District, and Department levels, and I am excited to help our organization in any way I can. With the ability to have more communication and collaboration than ever before, our organization has the opportunity to grow and expand how we serve our veterans. With these new opportunities, our governing documents become very important. Understanding our structure and operations enables members to navigate the various ways we serve our veterans and their families more effectively.



**DEDE THEAL**

Committee Member
Central Division

DeDe Theal has been an active and enthusiastic member of the ALA since 2015, eligible through her father who served in the US Navy.

DeDe has held positions as Unit and District President, Department President, and Alternate NEC for the Department of Washington. She has served as Western Division Chair for five National Committees, and is excited to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for 2026-27.

**VIRGINIA CHAPUT**

Committee Member
Northwestern Division

Virginia "Ginny" Chaput is a proud native of Maine, A devoted Mother and Grandmother, and a longtime leader in service to Veterans, Military Families, and her Community. As the oldest of six children, Ginny was raised in a family shaped by military service. Her Father was a 20-year Navy Veteran, and her Grandfather served in the Army. Both left a lasting legacy of Patriotism, Commitment, and Respect for those who serve. Growing up in a Navy family, Ginny experienced life across the United States as her family followed her father's assignments. Those early experiences helped shape her appreciation for family, resilience, adaptability, and sacrifices made by service members and their loves ones.

Ginny has been an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary Smith-Tobey Unit 21 in Bath, Maine for 34 years. Her dedication to the auxiliary has included service at the Unit, Department, Division, and National Levels. She recently served as the Department Constitution & By-laws committee woman for 2 years. She also completed two years as Eastern Division Leadership Chair and now is proud to serve as a National Constitution and By-laws committee member and the Chair of the Department's Leadership Committee.

One of Ginny's most meaningful contributions was co-founding "Gifts of Gratitude," a troop care package program created with an active-duty legionnaire. She chaired the program for 10 years before helping transition it to the Department, where it became part of the national security program. The program was passed on with a strong foundation and a generous starting bank, ensuring its mission of support could continue.

Ginny was honored to serve as the Department of Maine's 100th president. By coincidence, she remained in the role for the only two-year presidential term, serving during the Covid-19 pandemic. During that time, she became known as the "Pandemic President," while the Commander was known as the "Covid Commander." Despite the challenges and tragedy of those years, Ginny worked alongside the Legion family to continue serving Veterans, their families, and communities across Maine.





MARTY PETERS
Committee Member
Eastern Division

I am a continuous member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 50 in Cleburne, Texas since 1993, (33 years) qualifying through the service of my deceased husband in the U.S. Air Force. Every year since 2000, I have held an office at some level and have enjoyed the challenges and adventures as I strived to share enthusiasm with our members.

We know that all the "real" work happens at the Unit level and I enjoy the hands-on working with our members and with other organizations as we organize and participate in city-wide events recognizing our military, veterans and patriotic events. I currently serve the unit as Treasurer. We have special activities each year including our annual Flag Day visit to a Day Care Centers and City Library accompanied by "Uncle Sam", "Betsy Ross", "Statue of Liberty", "George Washington" and other participants. I created a 9-11 table ceremony script to remember and honor the victims and the heroes of September 11, 2001, and have shared the script with other units.

I served the Department of Texas as President 2012-2013 and my theme was "Serving with a Song in our Hearts" - that summer, Texas hosted the American Legion Family's National Conventions in Houston.

I own MAP TAX SERVICES, a bookkeeping and tax business in Cleburne (since 1981), Shady is the office mascot and live on Lake Granbury in Hood County, Texas with ShadyHO's mom and sister.



ALEX GOREE
National Liaison
agoree@legions-aux.org
317-569-4503

Administrative Assistant at the ALANHQ. I manage communications, file organization, document prep, and daily operations. I am currently pursuing a PACE certification to enhance my administrative professional skills. avid reader, iced coffee enthusiast, and always dreaming of my next beach trip (more than likely to Florida).



As we get ready to get to work for the 2026-2027 administrative year, we know that governing documents will help us along the way. To be "A Beacon For Veterans" we will need to use our Constitution and Bylaws to ensure we are working as a team with a goal in mind.

Constitution Day is Thursday September 17, 2026. This day celebrates the day in 1787 when delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution in Philadelphia. July 4th marks our independence, but September 17th marks the official creation of the federal government and its structure. The Constitution still guides our country to this day. Like our Great Nation, our organization has grown and changed over the years requiring amendments to our governing documents.

While Constitution Day is celebrated on September 17th you can encourage your Departments and Units to review and learn their Constitution and Bylaws in fun ways throughout the year. Games like jeopardy, bingo, puzzles, and trivia are fun ways to get members involved with Constitution and Bylaws. To get your Junior Members involved you could challenge them to memorize the preamble and give them a prize when they are able to recite it.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is always here to help and answer your questions.

Editor/Author for this issue is Leslie Ginther





A red backpack is shown, filled with various school supplies. Inside the backpack, there are several notebooks with colorful covers (yellow, blue, and white), a yellow pen, a blue pen, and a watercolor palette with various colors. The backpack is red with black straps and zippers.

**LEARN
MORE**



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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
TEXAS BLUEBONNET GIRLS STATE

THE 2027 SESSION OF ALA TEXAS BLUEBONNET GIRLS STATE WILL BE HELD AT
TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY IN SEGUIN, TEXAS.

DATES: SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2027 THROUGH SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2027

GS INFORMATION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALA UNITS AND SCHOOLS IN LATE FALL, 2026. PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION CAREFULLY AS SOME OF THE RULES AND DATES HAVE CHANGED. PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE INFORMATION GETS TO THE GS CONTACT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO CONTACT SCHOOLS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING YOUNG LADIES TO THIS OUTSTANDING PROGRAM. ALSO, GET YOUR FUNDING IN ORDER SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RESERVE SPOTS AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 2027.



SPIRIT





American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas Leadership Committee

We are happy to present numerous training opportunities that you can incorporate in your Unit. In addition, throughout the year we will post training opportunities through our Facebook page and the Department Bulletin. We will let you know when webinars are posted and be on the lookout for the new and improved ALA training tool that is being developed and will be included in the ALA Academy website on the National page.

Our trainings will include, but are not limited to:

- Responsibilities of Various Offices
- Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules
- Compliance
- Ceremonies and Protocols
- Conflict Resolution/mentoring/team building
- Parliamentary Procedures
- ALA Programs
- Navigating Technology

To help us better plan and provide the training that best meets your needs, we ask that all requests for Leadership Committee training be submitted in writing by email to the Department Leadership Chair.

Submitting your request by email ensures that all the details are captured accurately, allows us to coordinate speakers and resources, and helps us respond to your request in a timely manner.

Please include:

- Unit, District, or Division requesting the training
- Preferred topic(s)
- Desired date(s)
- Location or meeting format (in person or virtual)
- Contact person's name, phone number, and email
- Any additional information that would help us tailor the training to your members.

We look forward to working with you and helping make your leadership event a success!

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Christinet2121@yahoo.com
409-658-8629

Teresa Simmons-Copeland
4th Div, Liaison
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Mission 78574
tscunit37@gmail.com
956-533-7841

Keep reading
to discover how you can be the leader everyone wants to follow!

Raise awareness of ALA leadership development opportunities.

- Attend [American Legion Auxiliary Mission Training](#):
 - Watch for event announcements in *Auxiliary* magazine, ALA emails, and social media for dates and locations.
 - After Mission Training, share the information you received with your unit, district/county, and department.
- Attend leadership conferences/workshops within your district/department.
- Participate in [ALA Academy courses](#).
- Be aware of ALA leadership opportunities in your community:
 - Speak to other community organizations about veterans' support.
 - Speak to high schools about veterans to develop your own leadership abilities.
- [ALA Unit Member of the Year](#):
 - Nominate a fellow unit member for Unit Member of the Year.
 - Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed role higher than unit president.
 - Follow your department's procedures for submitting nominations – Units will submit their Unit Member of the Year candidate to the Past President Parlay Chair by or before the May deadline set in the PPP Program Engagement Plan. The PPP Chair will judge all entries and submit the Department winner to National via the on-line submission form by the June 1 deadline.
- [Leadership Tips to Get Started](#)
 - Tips that you can take back to your Units to initiate
 - Members participate in a mock meeting to gain experience leading a meeting.
 - A member shares a leadership idea at each meeting based upon the Leadership Committee's theme of the month.
 - Officers are paired with mentors for questions and support — at least quarterly communication.
 - Chairs are partnered with other members to help learn the ALA's programs.
 - Hold one or more community-based programs to build leadership skills.
- **Promote participation in the ALA Academy.**
 - Go to the [ALA Academy](#).
 - Available courses include many topics – leadership, communications, mission outreach, etc.
- **Enhance knowledge about ALA history, programs, and organization.**
 - Attend district/department training sessions/workshops.
 - Participate in [Mission Training](#) — this is a one-day, interactive conference geared toward learning more about the ALA's core programs and deliver our mission.
 - Download/purchase and become familiar with the:
 - [Unit Guide Book](#)
 - [Constitution & Bylaws](#)
 - [Department Operations Guide](#)
 - Parliamentary Procedures



2026 - 2027 DEPARTMENT GOALS & MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR UNITS

Our Department Membership Committee year-end awards will include certificates for all those units that make the Department of Texas Goals plus ribbons and a special reward for those units who achieve 100% membership:

- 50% HOMECOMING - Veterans Day on November 11, 2026
Units reaching this goal will go into a drawing for \$100 in the three categories below
- 85% SPRING TRAINING - the National Merit Medallion Membership Deadline on March 15, 2027
Units reaching this goal will go into a drawing for \$75 in the three categories below
- 95% PROM - National Poppy Day on May 28, 2027
Units reaching this goal will go into a drawing for \$50 in the three categories below
- 100% UNIT TRYOUTS - Independence Day on July 4, 2027
Units reaching this goal will go into a drawing for \$25 in the three categories below

Ribbons and certificates will be awarded at the Department Convention along with special awards and cash incentives to assist in working the unit membership program for those units reaching the highest percentage in their groups.

- Small Group 0 - 25 members
- Medium Group 26 - 100 members
- Large Group 101 – 571

YOUR 2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We are excited and ready for this membership year – if you need our help or if you have questions or if you just want to vent, please get in touch with us. We're here for you!

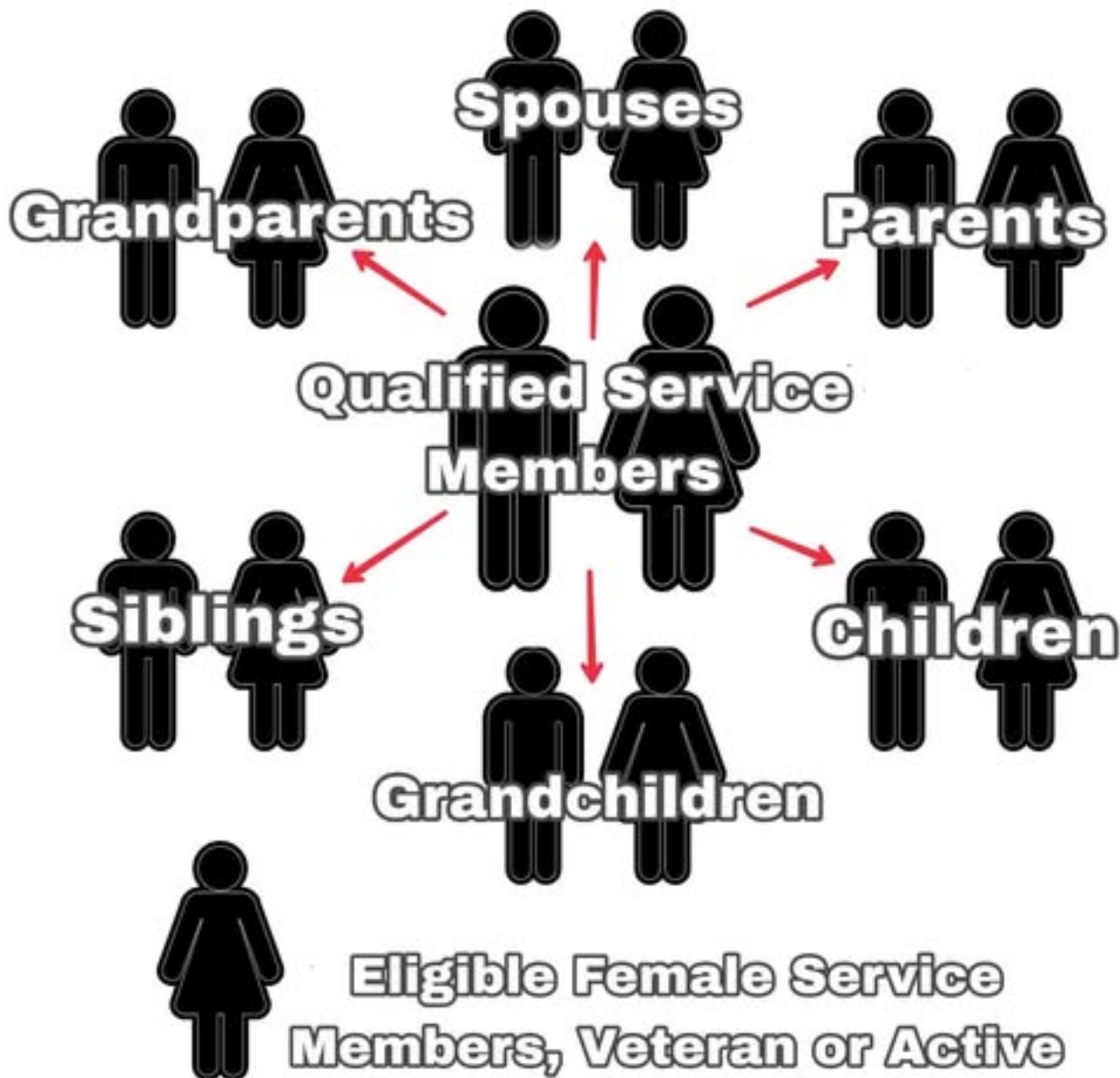
Division 1 Lisette Johnson lisettejohnson@aol.com

Division 2 Maria Holmes gooneyd@yahoo.com

Division 3 Leigh-Anne Stewart (Chair) LA@bdrushlaw.com

Division 4 Paula Roberts pkr427@aol.com

ALA Eligibility





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS POPPY PROGRAM

The American Legion Poppy Program supports our mission of service to veterans and military families. We encourage you to visit our national website at alaforveterans.org for many resources on the Poppy history, usage, guidelines, resources, and activities. Download the ALA Poppy Guide from the national website at

https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA_PoppyGuide.pdf

This year the Department Poppy Committee has a few exciting things planned to promote awareness of the Poppy Story and to serve those who have served us.

POPPY POSTER CONTEST - Guidelines will be in the forthcoming Program Engagement Plan posted on the ALA website. Units may submit posters based on several grade/age classes (delivered to Dept Convention for judging) and we encourage each Unit to have a special judging of their own, offering a 'prize' to the winners. Winners at the Dept level will receive a gift card and certificate.

LITTLE MISS POPPY CONTEST - Guidelines for this will also be in the forthcoming Program Engagement Plan on the ALA website. Each Unit is encouraged to nominate a "Little Miss Poppy" in their community who promotes the Poppy program. Submissions will require pictures and a nomination form detailing her activities. The winner will be determined by the Poppy Committee and, if able to attend, presented to the convention in July.

FUND RAISING EFFORTS - We will be selling Poppy t-shirts this year. The order form is attached here and will be on the website soon. There are 14 designs and 4 colors to pick from. Please pre-order with the attached form and you can pick your shirt(s) up at Fall DEC in Austin or have them shipped for a small fee. Look for an AMAZING Poppy basket for raffle at MidWinter!!!

WAYS TO PROMOTE THE POPPY PROGRAM IN YOUR UNIT AND COMMUNITY:

- National Poppy Day is May 28, 2027. Hold a special event at your Post and invite the community to learn about the Poppy and raise funds to support our program.
- Contact local businesses to arrange a Poppy Table and hand out poppies to customers and visitors. Remember to put out a Poppy Can for donations.
- Display the Flanders Field poster in your Post and have a special time in a meeting to share the history of the poem.
- Check out the national website at alaforveterans.org for more resources

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK at "ALA Poppy Program in Texas" and share your AWESOME Poppy activities, ideas, pictures and stories. We look forward to a great year as we **CHEER EACH OTHER ON** in service to our veterans!

Shay Kuehner (Chair), Division 1, shay1956@sbcglobal.net 817-300-2043
Brandi Wray, Division 2, brandiwjay202@gmail.com
Terisa Garcia, Division 3, tgar_da4_3l_3@y_fb00c.com
Sabrina Melton, Division 4, sgmelton78@gmail.com



POPPY COMMITTEE T-SHIRT SALES ORDER FORM

Please fill out in its entirety and scan or text to Brandi Ware at: >randiwwray2023@gmail.com or 682-459-9026. Shirts are Gildan unisex sizes, \$30 each. Shipping cost \$9 per increments of 5 (1-5 \$9, 6-10 \$18, etc). Choose from designs on attached page. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!

NAME:	UNIT#:
ADDRESS:	CITY & ZIP:
EMAIL:	PHONE:

CHECK ONE:

___ **SHIP TO ADDRESS SHOWN** ___ **PICKUP AT DEC/ MIDWINTER/ CONVENTION**

****Shipping cost \$9 per increments of 5 (1-5 \$9, 6-10 \$18, etc)**

ENTER NUMBER OF SHIRTS ORDERED PER DESIGN, COLOR, AND SIZE

(designs shown on attached form/ color choices - RED, WHITE, GREY, BLACK):

DESIGN#	COLOR	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	2XL	3XL

TOTAL NUMBER OF SHIRTS: ___ X \$30 EACH= \$_____ + \$_____ SHIPPING (if applicable)= TOTAL AMOUNT DUE OR ENCLOSED: \$_____

PAYMENT METHOD:

___ **CASH (pick up only)** ___ **VENMO** ___ **INVOICE (sent via Square)**

___ **CHECK (payable to Brandi Wray)**

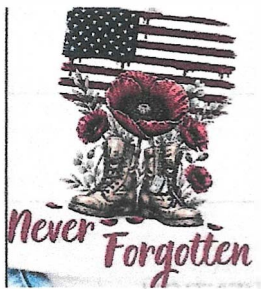
****If shipping, all orders must be paid prior to shipping and include shipping charge \$9 per increments of five. Pick-ups may pay in advance or at time of pick-up.**

FOR POPPY COMMITTEE USE:

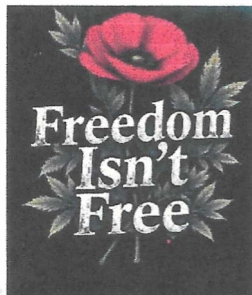
Date Received: _____ Date Shipped: _____
Picked Up: _____

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY; CHOSE DESIRED DESIGN BY THE NUMBER NOTED ABOVE THE DESIGN AND INDICATE IN THE CORRECT COLUMN ON ORDERE FORM

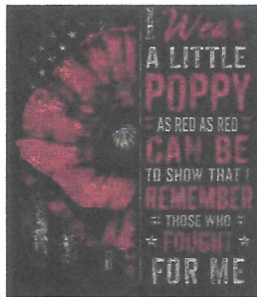
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DESIGN#2



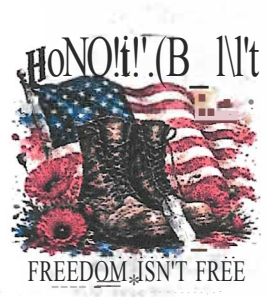
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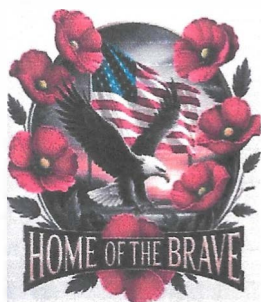
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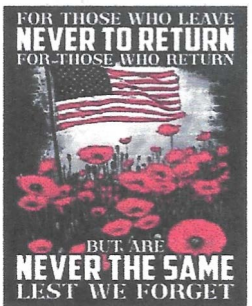
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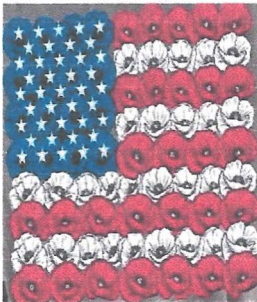
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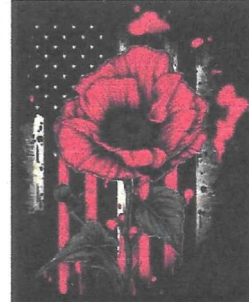
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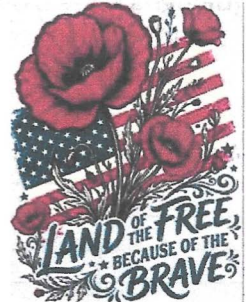
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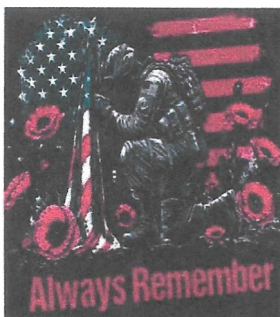
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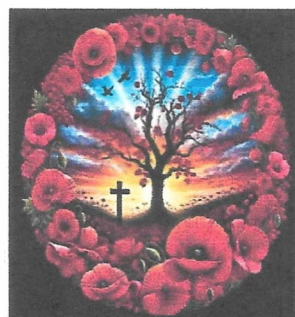
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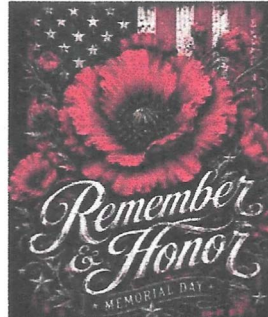
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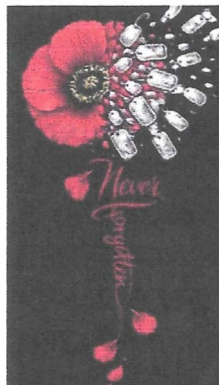
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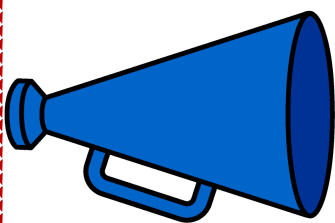
**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Texas
VA&R Committee
2026-2027**

In the spirit of service, not self, the purpose of the VA & R Committee is to promote programs, events and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans, their families, their caregivers and their survivors, ensuring the best quality of life possible and the continuing honor of their memory.

Key Program Statements:

- Support the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
- Educate, encourage and enroll ALA members to volunteer at VA health care facilities.
- Recognize, encourage and support the current Texas Deps and Reps.
- Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families, such as Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Inc., and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
- Look in your community for opportunities to support veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.
- Support The American Legion's Be the One mission.

There are a number of resources listed on the Program Engagement Plan to help your unit engage in the VA&R program.



How does your unit support our veterans? Do you have a special event that you would like to promote?

Is your unit hosting an event to commemorate POW/MIA Day, Sep 18th?

Share with us, like us and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/ALAVARTX/>

In the coming months a lot of activities are planned and we would love for you to join us. By following us on Facebook you can keep up to date.

2026-2027 Head Cheerleaders

Division 1	Lynda Sutton	817-296-2458	Lyndasutton72yahoo.com
Division 2	Licia Kim	979-676-2227	Liciakim.alatexas@gmail.com
Division 3	Rosie Cherry	210-287-5841	rrosie@aol.com
Division 4	Myra Cooper	917-549-3594	Myracooper11@yahoo.com