



# 2020 Annual Report American Legion Auxiliary





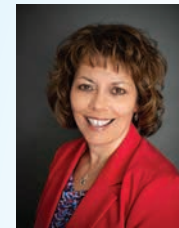
Members of Arizona Unit 62 adopted a military wife, and her child, while her U.S. Air Force husband was deployed overseas. They helped distribute poppies for National Poppy Day®.



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# ALA Mission Stays True During Challenging Times



As national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, it is my honor to thank each and every member, donor, and supporter of the ALA. You have touched the lives of others in ways you may not realize.

Your contributions helped the ALA continue its longstanding tradition of selfless service to America's veterans, military, and their families — honoring and helping them any way we can.

For more than a century, Auxiliary members have enthusiastically carried out numerous programs that benefit those we serve. In doing so, we show our appreciation for the sacrifices they made, or are making, as our nation's protectors and defenders. We strive to enhance their health and well-being. We let them know we care.

As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, it becomes even more important to do what we can for our military heroes and their families. With continued support, the Auxiliary will work tirelessly to help future generations of veterans, military, and their families.

—*Nicole Clapp, American Legion Auxiliary National President*

A photograph showing three people in a dressing room. On the left, a man in a white shirt and tie (Carson Shaffer) is gesturing with his hands while talking. In the center, a woman in a black and white patterned top (Kathy Daudistel) is smiling. On the right, a woman in a tan jacket (Nicole Clapp) is looking towards the man. The background shows a dressing room with mirrors and a clock.

Musical performer Carson Shaffer talks with ALA National Vice President Kathy Daudistel (center) and National President Nicole Clapp at the 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Kalamazoo, Mich. The American Legion Auxiliary is a longtime presenting sponsor of the Festival.

# Your Generosity Remains a Triumph



In the midst of an unprecedented year, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, with the help of generous donors, continued its steadfast support of veterans, military, and their families. We are beginning our 13th year with the renewed confidence that when times get tough, the ALA Foundation will still be able to give our nation's


heroes the help they deserve.

This past year, the ALAF awarded 35 grants totaling more than \$103,000 to support ALA entities — the most in a single year since the ALA Foundation's inception. Additionally, we provided the national organization with more than \$62,000 in support of mission-centric programs and grew the Mission Endowment Fund to over \$1.6 million.

This year, 10 Veteran Projects Fund grants provided adaptive sports equipment, appliances, and technology to support the growth and independence of veterans across America. Veterans Creative Arts Festival grants awarded to three ALA entities provided art supplies, recognition, and award materials to assist local VCAF events and promote creative expression as therapy for our nation's heroes. Mission in Action grants have helped 10 ALA units and departments promote their life-changing programs by funding branded storage, transport materials, and signage. Finally, the ALA Foundation used its 501(c)(3) status to assist 12 ALA entities with subgrants to support the mission.

None of these triumphs would be possible without our generous donors, members, and volunteers. We are so grateful and proud to continue serving veterans, military, and their families through hard times.

—Doris Hammeke, American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors President



**American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors President Doris Hammeke (left) attends an ALAF dedication ceremony for the new Quiver Vision art therapy equipment at the Fort Dodge Kansas Soldiers' Home Veterans' Art and Rehabilitation Creative Arts program. Paula Sellens (also pictured), ALA Kansas District Eight president, applied for an ALA Foundation Veteran Projects Fund grant in order to help veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Keith Meyerhoff (middle) and Terry Harris (right), members of the Sons of The American Legion, also attended the dedication ceremony.**



ALA member Judy Wothke of Zionsville Unit 79 in Indiana works with Legion Family members during preparations for placement of 2,500 U.S. flags on veterans' headstones over the 2020 Memorial Day weekend.

# Impact of the ALA

**VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING VETERANS & MILITARY**

**3,233,625**

**VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING MILITARY FAMILIES**

**402,818**

**VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING YOUTH, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMUNITIES**

**2,579,527**

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS**

**6,215,970**

# Impact of the ALA



Randall Harrod joins fellow talented veterans from across the nation to display his black and white photography piece “Futures Past” at the 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Kalamazoo, Mich. The American Legion Auxiliary is a longtime presenting sponsor of the Festival.

**RESOURCES  
RAISED  
& SPENT ON  
VETERANS  
& MILITARY**

**\$9,695,994**

**RESOURCES  
RAISED  
& SPENT ON  
MILITARY  
FAMILIES**

**\$1,171,846**

**RESOURCES  
RAISED & SPENT  
ON YOUTH,  
SCHOLARSHIPS,  
COMMUNITIES**

**\$8,714,262**

**TOTAL  
RAISED  
& SPENT**

**\$19,582,102**

# Impact of the ALA Foundation

**MISSION  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND**

**\$1.68 million**

**TOTAL  
GRANTS  
GIVEN**

**\$103,489.87**

**TOTAL  
GIVEN  
TO ALA  
PROGRAMS**

**\$62,316**

**U.S.  
STATES  
REACHED**

**24**

American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation is a weeklong event that gives participants a firsthand experience with practical insight into how the federal government works. More than 7,000 young women have participated in ALA Girls Nation since it was founded in 1947.

# Impact of the ALA Foundation



Members of ALA Unit 134 in Morton Grove, Ill., display a piece of fabric used in the unit's "100 Blankets" service project. The fleece coverings were given to dialysis patients at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago.

**VETERANS  
CREATIVE  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL  
GRANTS**

**\$5,730**

**MISSION  
IN ACTION  
GRANTS**

**\$13,792.02**

**SUB-  
GRANTS**

**\$38,825**

**VETERAN  
PROJECTS  
FUND  
GRANTS**

**\$45,142.85**






## 2019–2020 Annual Donor Report Recognizing Donors Supporting Our Mission

Whether you give to honor a loved one, because you have served, or simply because you believe in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, we are thankful.

Your contributions lifted the financial burden from members in need by providing nearly \$236,000 in Auxiliary Emergency Fund grants, gave hope and opportunity to young, deserving students through \$155,500 in scholarships, and made a major impact on the lives of countless veterans, military, and their families across the country. Without your generosity, none of this would be possible. Thank you for supporting our nation's heroes and embodying our promise of *Service Not Self*.



Members of the American Legion Auxiliary help veterans explore the many ways art heals by being on hand to volunteer at various productions, ceremonies, activities, and art workshops at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

**AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY**

**\$10,000+**

**Organization**

Dept of Arizona  
Dept of Illinois  
Dept of Indiana  
Dept of Minnesota  
Dept of Nebraska  
Dept of Ohio  
Dept of Texas  
American Legion Child Welfare  
Foundation Inc.

**Members**

Barbara K. Smith

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

**Organization**

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Dept of Colorado  
Dept of Iowa  
Dept of Michigan  
Dept of Missouri  
Dept of New Jersey  
Dept of New Mexico  
Dept of New York  
Dept of North Carolina  
Dept of Pennsylvania  
Dept of Wisconsin

**Members**

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**\$1,000-\$4,999**

**Organization**

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Dept of Connecticut

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Dept of Georgia  
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Unit 233 Georgia  
Unit 1992 Mississippi  
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Unit 36 Vermont  
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**\$250-\$499**

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Unit 222 California  
Unit 421 California  
Unit 476 California  
Unit 584 California  
Unit 755 California  
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Unit 3 Mississippi  
Unit 685 Ohio  
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Unit 15 South Carolina  
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Unit 56 Virginia

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**\$100-\$249**

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Unit 30 California  
Unit 79 California  
Unit 95 California  
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Unit 83 California  
Unit 132 California  
Unit 138 California  
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Unit 299 California  
Unit 419 California  
Unit 428 California  
Unit 552 California  
Unit 694 California  
Unit 742 California  
Unit 833 California  
Unit 6 Delaware  
Unit 7 Delaware  
Unit 17 Delaware  
Unit 164 Florida

Unit 29 Georgia  
Unit 11 Hawaii  
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Unit 173 Indiana  
Unit 34 Iowa  
Unit 154 Michigan  
Unit 16 Nevada  
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This year was not an easy road for many people across the world. It came with uncertainties and ongoing challenges. But donors of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, since its inception, have found a way to continue the steadfast support of veterans, military, and their families. In fact, this year the ALA Foundation reached an incredible milestone — awarding over half a million dollars to ALA entities across the country. You are positively impacting the lives of our veterans, military, and their families each and every day. Our mission will endure for years to come, thanks to you.

Maine Unit 81 received an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veteran Projects Fund grant for \$4,503 to help purchase wheelchairs used by volunteers and staff to transport patients around the Togus Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta.

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 Kathy Bishop  
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Roxie Sanders  
Jill Sandhaas  
Linda Santistevan  
Catherine Scheeren  
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Mary Smith-Ried  
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Robin Sprang  
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Joan Stephenson  
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Helen Brink  
Marian Browder  
Sarah Burrus  
Nancy Byers  
Sarah Catalfo  
Francis Clayton  
Eleanor Cobb  
Richard Daniels  
Miriam De Masi

Sydney DeLong  
Glenda Duncan  
Wallis Edwards  
Melanie Emmerich  
Adrian Ervin  
Joan Fearnside  
Helen Foster  
Lillian Giuliani  
Levi Goldfarb  
Robert Hagerthey  
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Donald Hawthorne  
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Edna Henry  
Wm Hickman  
Sara Hicks  
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John Howell  
Anna Hubbard  
Jack Iseley  
Lori L. Jacobwith  
Judy Johnson  
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Jimmey Kaiser  
Raymond Kern  
Jarold King  
Rodney Kinne  
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Ruth Komarek  
Lynda Lancaster  
Paul Le Buhn  
George Legler  
W. Lott  
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Allen Martin  
Michael McCormick  
Linda Meier  
Robert Montgomery  
Karolin Moshi  
Kelly Moyer  
Lee Murray  
Elaine Nisenoff  
Bradley Oppenheim  
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Margaret Ratterman  
Jim And Barbara Reynolds  
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Theodore Schuldt  
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Ken Vaughn  
Norma Vieregge  
Deborah Waldrip  
Victor Warren  
Ruth Webb  
Andrew Weidert  
Danetta Whisnant  
John Wiemers  
Ray Wydrinski  
Stephen Yaussi  
Kang Yu



## IN MEMORY/HONOR OF...

### *In Honor of*

ALA National Headquarters Staff in honor of National Secretary Linda Boone  
Pat Alvarez in honor of Ed Alvarez  
Kristen Anderson in honor of ALA Girls National Class of 2001  
Michael Butt in honor of ALA National Headquarters Staff  
Michael Butt in honor of PNP Linda Boone  
Gina Callicotte in honor of all soldiers  
Paulette D. Caron in honor of Robert R. Caron  
Judy Casados in honor of Robert L. Casados  
Nicole Chernish in honor of Chrystal Daulton's Birthday  
Louise M. Cloonan in honor of all veterans  
Laura (Susie) Clyde in honor of South Dakota PDPs  
Carrie Davenport in honor of ALA Empire Girls State  
Marie Delaney in honor of Raymond Bykowski  
Julie Diefenbacher in honor of David Jeffalone  
Donna M. Dillard in honor of Katherine Morris  
Vincent Drouillon in honor of all veterans

ALA National Headquarters Staff in honor of National Secretary Linda Boone  
Doreen M. Gallagher in honor of Maggie McMahon  
Dorothy Hazen in honor of H. Gerald Foeler  
Erin Hoffmann in honor of Edward Pierce  
Teresa Isensee in honor of Steven Isensee  
Jill Johnson in honor of Virginia M. Holley  
Kathi Karnowski in honor of Leo C. Karnowski Sr.  
Diane M. Kraemer in honor of all veterans  
Nancy Kravit in honor of Harriet Bowman-Wright  
Linda Louise LaCasse in honor of Jeri Greenwell, Marie Delane, Sandra Cruz, Lydia Degumbia, Peggy Thomas, Aleyne Welton, SSgt Jerry LaCasse, Kathy Dungan, Nicole Clapp and Brenda Collins  
Marilyn Kaye Lalonde in honor of Richard P. Niedbalski and William F. Carrico  
Jean Leek in honor of Chrystal Daulton's Birthday  
Lauren E. Lloyd in honor of Thomas G. Markham  
Beth McGinn in honor of Townsend Brothers, WWII Veterans

Mary Jane McLoon in honor of Harold Tibbetts  
Marianne Middleton in honor of Margaret M. Middleton  
Joyce M. Nordman in honor of all of my family members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces  
Margaret Ratterman in honor of all who serve  
Eric Rockhill in honor of ALA Portland Oregon  
Laura Santino in honor of Richard Wm. Anderson  
Michele Schlosser in honor of Joseph Gullo  
Bonnie Schuitema in honor of Gilbert D. Karsten  
Brenda Shirley in honor of Howard Shirley  
Frank and Dena Snyder in honor of Virginia M. Holley  
Debra St. John Tiernan in honor of all the work our members do  
Tammy Stagman in honor of Gary Krohmer  
Shirley Thornberry in honor of Donna Lubinski  
Beth Toalston in honor of Jennifer Dunlap  
Christine R. Trahan in honor of Dusty Trahan  
Judy Twete in honor of Department of North Dakota  
Judy Twete in honor of my military

husband and son  
Kathy A. Vasquez in honor of all veterans  
Bonnie Vest in honor of Lewis A. Smith Jr.  
Kristine and Don West in honor of Bob Melgard  
  
*In Memoriam*  
First Husbands Club in memory of John Morris  
Virginia Unit 293 in memory of Dale Ann Moran  
Pat Alvarez in memory of Ed Alvarez  
Christine Anderson in memory of Richard Wm. Anderson  
Constance Angel in memory of Donald R. Blouse Jr.  
Carlene Ashworth in memory of Marian Odell, John Morris and Ken Peters Sr.  
Rita M. Barylski in memory of Andrew Barylski Jr.  
Linda Boone in memory of PNP Betty Calder  
Tammy S. Brnak in memory of Howard Eichner  
DeeDee Buckley in memory of Nanci Carole Brusati-Dias  
Willa Burgess in memory of Richard (Dick) Lindenmuth  
Michael Butt

in memory of Doyne D. Butt  
Gina J. Callicotte in memory of all those who died during active duty  
Carol Campbell in memory of James F. Gallagher Sr. and James F. Gallagher Jr.  
Carolyn H. Cannon in memory of Willie Glenn Hurdle  
Madeline Cassidy in memory of Henry Saer  
Kelly Circle in memory of Twila Collins  
Nicole Clapp in memory of Rachel A. Grout  
Nicole Clapp in memory of PNP Betty Calder  
Nicole Clapp in memory of Ken Peters  
Nicole Clapp in memory of Judith Somers  
Nicole Clapp in memory of Steven Taylor  
Corinna Colson in memory of Eric N. Colson Jr.  
Sharon Conatser in memory of Irene Lofton  
Sharon Conatser in memory of Bob Melgard  
Ann Crawford in memory of PDP Sandra Heckstein  
Ann Crawford in memory of Barb Hutchinson  
Daun Cziok in memory of Virginia Cziok

Kathy M. Daudistel in memory of Ken Peters	Peterson Angela M. Golightly in memory of Angela Golightly	Kathi K. Karnowski in memory of John Alan Ware	in memory of Stanley K. Pogorzelski	in memory of Mason Blumberg
Lavera Davis in memory of Mary Gabris	Jeri Greenwell in memory of PNP's Pearl Behrend and Betty Calder	Doreen Long in memory of Josie Melgard	Wendy Quam in memory of Georgine D. Carnes	Terri Wallace in memory of Barbara Hockaday
Robin L. Dorf in memory of Emil and Mary Dorf	Jeri Greenwell in memory of Ruth Conatser	Mary Caplin Long in memory of Tom Long	Toni P. Reale in memory of Antonio Salerns	Kristine West in memory of Department Secretary Beverly Burns
Mary Carole Ducharme in memory of Rosemary E. Stoltz	Coral May Grout in memory of Lyle Newton	Carol L. Lonsway in memory of LaVern Lonsway and Tom Schluchter	Jerris Riordan in memory of John P. Riordan	Kristine West in memory of Joyce Porter
Kathy Dungan in memory of Rev. Bendon Ginn	Debra Jeanne Haas in memory of Gary L. D. Haas	Lynn Machen in memory of Kenneth Harting Schoenewey	Jerris Riordan in memory of Johnny Riordan	Kristine West in memory of PNP Pearl Behrend
Thomas Durbin in memory of Ferris Robert "Rudy" Gillen	Kristen Hamborg in memory of RoseMarie Schoessler	Cathleen F. MacInnes in memory of Rachel A Grout	Laura E. Santino in memory of Richard Wm. Anderson	Stephen Yaussi in memory of Virginia M. Holley
Thomas Durbin in memory of Alexander Burton	Doris Hammeke in memory of Rachel A. Grout	Cathleen F. MacInnes in memory of Barbara Perry	Bonnie Schiutema in memory of Edwin and Edna Schiutema	
Diane E. Duscheck in memory of Marian Odell	Carol Harlow in memory of Irene Lofton	Bertie Milson in memory of Roger Milson	Ellen J. Simon in memory of Jeffrey Simon	
Diane E. Duscheck in memory of Past TAL Chaplain Clif Sorenson	Dorothy L. Hazen in memory of PDP Jo Ann Rodgers	Beverly A. Neel in memory of John James Gallop, Sr.	Karen Smith in memory of Norene R. Rauh	
Diane E. Duscheck in memory of Roland and Viola Duscheck	Christian Hinkie in memory of Iris Robichaux	Virginia W. Nelsen in memory of PNC Bill Detweiler	Sandra C. Stattion in memory of Clifton Cole	
Diane E. Duscheck in memory of Erna Schwabe	Brenda W. Holland in memory of Catherine D. Williams	Virginia W. Nelsen in memory of Leslie Walker	Michelle Still in memory of Roy Panser	
Robin Falkenberg in memory of Harriet Clendenin	Jack Iseley in memory of Richard Lindenmuth	Audrey H. Nelson-Sheil in memory of Thomas Sheil	Eric Tobin in memory of Beverly Adreon	
Angela R. Fett in memory of Harry A. Vittori	Amy Jens in memory of LaVon Schurman	Andria Nickerson in memory of John "Ballgame" Howell, Sr.	Carol Van Kirk in memory of Betty Calder	
Lona J. Gagnon in memory of George R. Gagnon	Sandra L. Josephson in memory of Marlene Josephson	Patty R. Nolan in memory of James H. Trogli	Ken Vaughn in memory of Robert "Bobby" Browner	
Julie Ann Garcia in memory of John Leaf	Miriam Junge in memory of John Morris	Amy H. Trogli	Bonnie Vest in memory of Lewis A. Smith Jr.	
Mary Beth Gardikas in memory of Pete P. Gardikas	Miriam Junge in memory of Betty Calder	Dorothea O'Shea in memory of Robert O'Shea	Judith L. Von Buchler in memory of Otis Lewis	
Kathryn P. Glass in memory of Anna Irene		Kim Ovcarich in memory of Al P. Lauderdale	Cynthia C. Walker in memory of Major Henry A. Carter and Marcia Allen Carter	
		Past National Presidents in memory of John Morris	Jean M. Walker	
		Deborah Pogorzelski-Stogner		



# LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

For 100 years, the American Legion Auxiliary has relied on generous donations to continue the support of veterans, military, and their families. These gifts have allowed the Auxiliary to provide hope in times of need, support for education and youth leadership programs, grants for veterans' art therapy, and much more. As we begin a new century of service, we look to build an even stronger future.

We ask that you join us in this mission by becoming a part of the Legacy Society, a group of people dedicated to the promise of *Service Not Self* who have chosen to include a planned gift to the American Legion Auxiliary or the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation in their estate plans. Your gift—no matter the size—will provide future financial support to the Auxiliary. We are so grateful for the following donors who have already committed a planned gift:

Linda J. Boone  
Nancy Brown-Park and James Park  
Ann Crawford  
Sharon Conatser  
Patricia A. Flaagan  
Jeri Greenwell  
Dr. Coral May Grout  
Janet Jefford  
Lynda Lancaster  
Jane Montaney  
Rita Navarreté  
Linda Newsome  
Marybeth Revoir  
Sandra L. Sowers  
Desireé Stoy  
Peggy Thomas

*In Memoriam:*  
Jean Bender  
Aileen Chitwood  
Helen Colby Small  
Rachel A. Grout  
Lois Lemke  
Arvilla Norris  
Lydia Pickup  
Grace S. Schulz  
Inez M. Shaffer  
Barbara K. Smith  
Joyce Starr  
Lillian Vitelli  
Ethel Wolansky

You can contribute to the future of the American Legion Auxiliary by adding a planned gift to your will. Be it large or small, every gift adds up to help ensure the Auxiliary is here for generations to come. Learn more about the Legacy Society by going to [www.ALAforVeterans.org/Planned-Giving](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/Planned-Giving).



# In a time of social distancing, veterans share their creativity virtually

As COVID-19 (coronavirus) has grappled all of our lifestyles, that hasn't stopped some from getting creative when it comes to continuing mission outreach efforts.

In collaboration with American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Unit 62, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, Veterans First, the Arizona Arts Commission, the City of Peoria, Ariz., private charities, and individuals, the Heal Her Art Women Veterans Wellness program hosts monthly social gatherings at the Phoenix VA Medical Center. During these gatherings, 25 to 30 women veterans from all military branches and walks of life participate in free painting sessions. This program was made possible with assistance from an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation grant.

"One of the things women veterans benefit from with our program is the social aspect of being with each other and getting support from each other," said Arizona Unit 62 member Marge Christianson.

In March, their event was cancelled as

COVID-19 continued spreading rapidly and social distancing guidelines were put into place. So, they improvised and came up with a new plan to stay connected.

Since early April, members of the program have taken part in a two-hour virtual painting session. Instructed via Zoom, participants were guided step by step on how to create their own canvas painting.

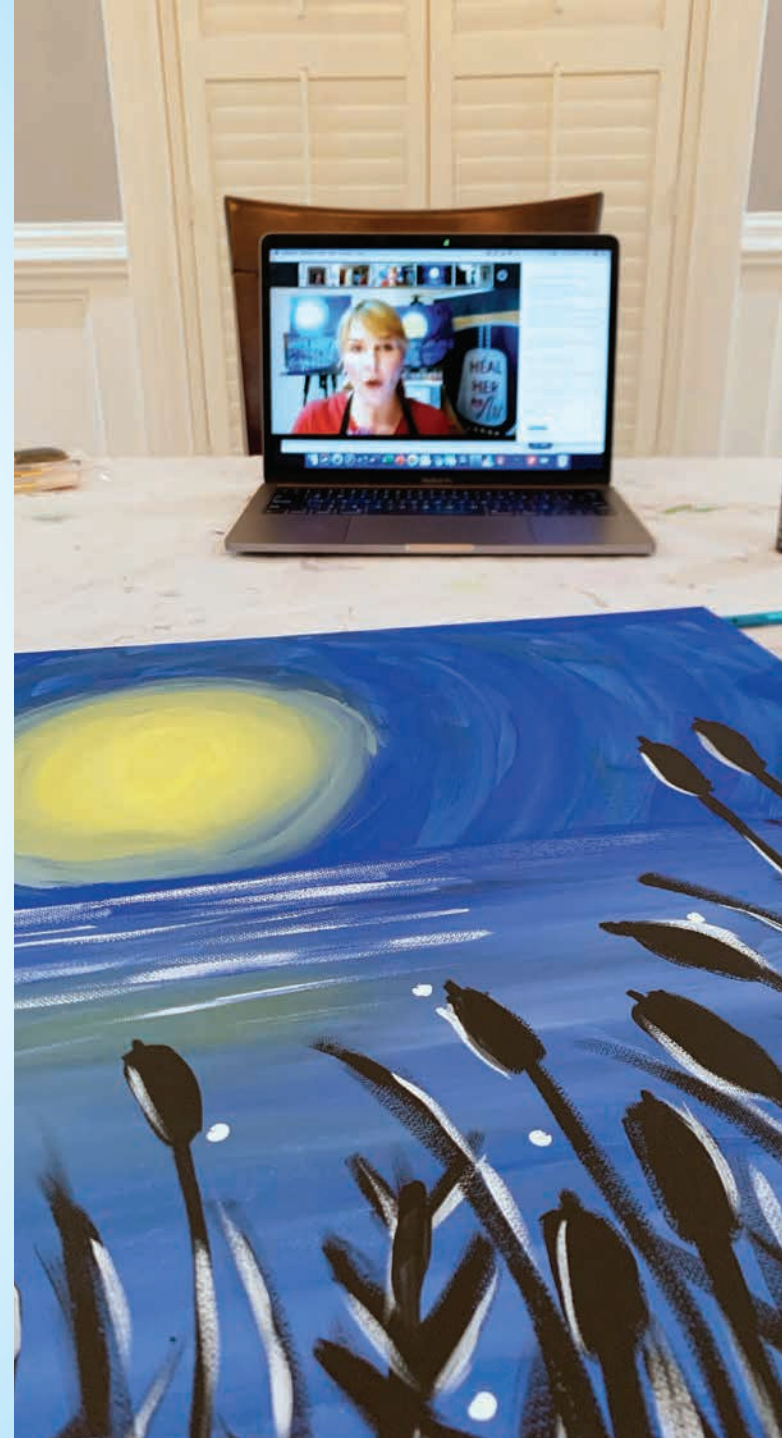
"We felt compelled to figure out a way to stay connected with these women so they could stay connected with each other."

Marge said she embraces the capabilities thanks to technological advances.

"Technology has enabled us to do things we haven't thought of," she said.

Marge would like to see the virtual events continue once the pandemic slows down, "particularly for those who are homebound or in geographies where we can't make physical events feasible," she said. "The ability to connect with people without leaving your home is such a wonderful opportunity."

*Originally published on [www.ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com](http://www.ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com).*



# Contactless drive-thru helps distribute poppies and honor veterans during National Poppy Day®

American Legion Auxiliary members had planned special events throughout the year to highlight the ALA's 100th anniversary of serving veterans, the military, and their families. But members had to postpone all in-person celebrations and conventions, along with most mission-related projects, as a way to help ensure the safety of our Legion Family during COVID-19. With Memorial Day celebrations on pause, ALA members cultivated creative, no-contact ways to still honor National Poppy Day.

Three days before National Poppy Day, Kathi Carney, president of Unit 45 in Greenbrier, Tenn., decided to host a contactless drive-thru poppy distribution at the Greenbrier American Legion post. Kathi and Unit 45 had always said their post home was a perfect place to host drive-thru events, which led to the National Poppy Day project.

"A 10-minute conversation on the phone with my treasurer turned into one of the best events we have had as a unit," said Kathi. "Everyone participated in the last-minute planning, and as a team, we succeeded in creating something quite wonderful."

The whole unit dropped what they were doing and dedicated their next few days to help decorate and set up their unit's first poppy distribution drive-thru. After careful, yet quick discussion, Unit 45 decided the safest and most efficient way to distribute poppies was to create a no-contact clothesline system. They used target stands from their annual turkey shoot event to keep the clothesline secure, and the unit saved money by utilizing signs and props used in past events to

decorate the drive-thru and post home.

Providing leftover poppies from last year, Unit 45 members took necessary precautions and wore gloves and masks to place each poppy in individual sealed bags, then they dangled them on the "Poppy Fence" with clothespins. Drivers followed an easy path to the fence and were able to pull the poppy bag off the clothespin without touching anything else. Several buckets were hung along the clothesline, creating a contactless and safe way to drop in donations. They also lined the drive-thru exit with Legion Family signs and a "Thank you for your support" sign.

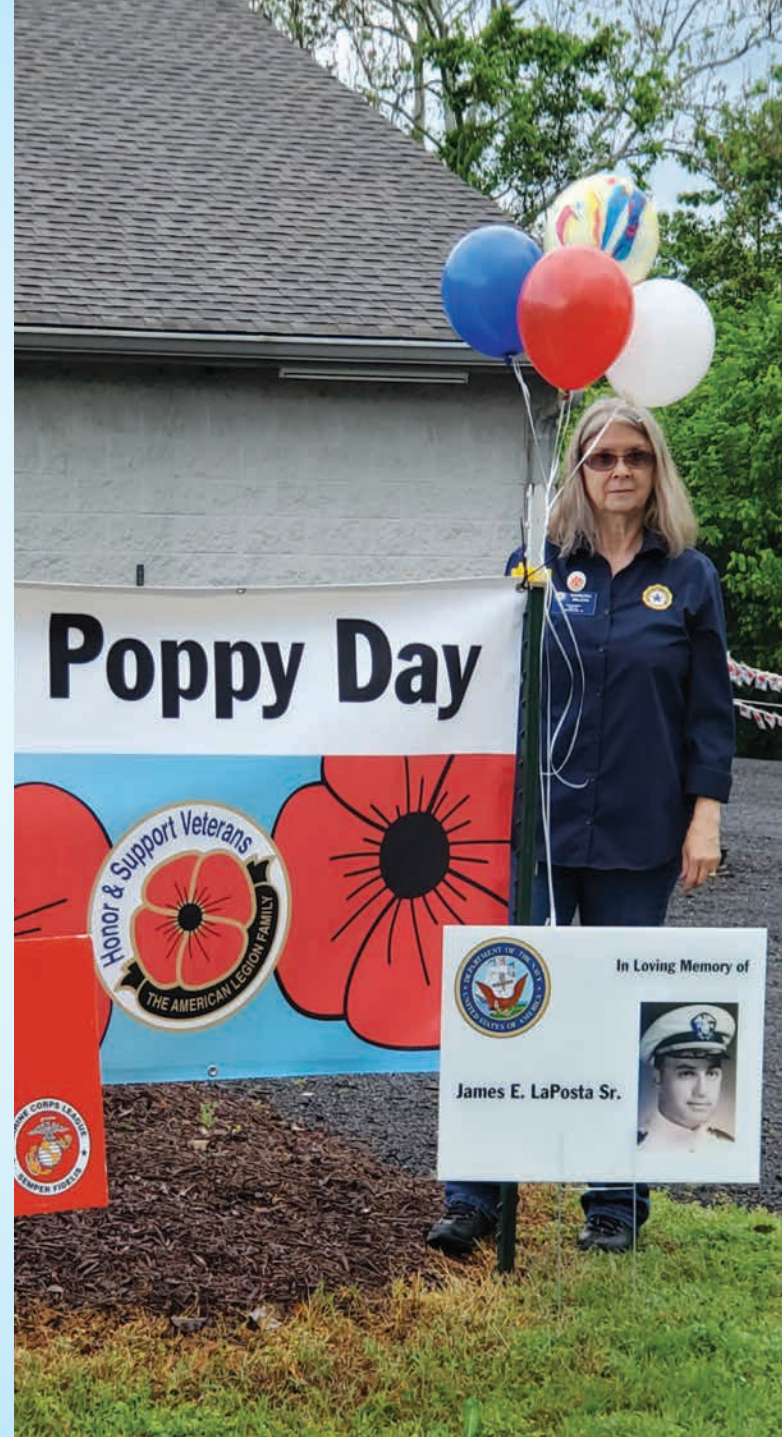
"In times of uncertainty, people always feel connected to our military and veterans," said Kathi. "We were astonished at the donations we received even at a time when people's finances may not be the best."

Unit 45 may have inspired and led this creative project, but it was a Legion Family effort to complete it. Everyone pitched in to help by setting up signs, maneuvering a clear path for cars, decorating handmade posters, posting on social media, and not to mention the time spent setting everything up and taking it down within a few short days.

Kathi and Unit 45 members decided to host the National Poppy Day drive-thru as an annual event.

"We learned that we just need to find a way to do something to remember our veterans," Kathi added. "We cannot let them be forgotten, even if that means coming up with a unique way of honoring Memorial Day."

*Originally published in the August 2020 issue of Auxiliary magazine.*



# Junior member busts open piggy bank for ALA

Ashlynn Jenkins, 16, has been an American Legion Auxiliary Junior member for the past six years, after being introduced to the organization by her grandmother. Being a member of the ALA has helped open Ashlynn's eyes to the sacrifices of our nation's heroes, as well as inspiring her to act.

"Ever since I joined, my heart has become larger, filled with so much love for these men and women, and I plan to continue to give out this love for as long as I can," she said.

Ashlynn began volunteering at various events and programs upon joining the Auxiliary. One of her favorites is the ALA Poppy Program. Ashlynn has also volunteered during the holidays, which happens to be one of her favorite memories.

"I went with my mother and one other Auxiliary member to give Christmas care packages to the local VA. Our purpose with these packages was to hand them out to veterans who do not have families to buy them gifts or to just sit and talk to. So with these care packages, we showed that they have many people who care about them," she shared.

Ashlynn's drive to serve would not stop there. She began fundraising for the ALA

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, with the goal of assisting young students going to college.

She raised funds by setting up donation banks around her town, conversing with community leaders, and even utilizing a "donation pig." One of her memorable moments is fundraising at an ALA state convention in Little Rock, Ark.

"We had the donation pig set up on its own table, and when everyone found out what it was for, there was automatically a line for donations. It was incredibly encouraging, and I am very grateful for all who donated," she said.

Even now, Ashlynn looks to impact young students further, with plans to reach out to surrounding communities and organizations, as well as encourage her fellow ALA Junior members to fundraise.

Ashlynn continues to fundraise and change the lives of veterans, military, and their families, knowing that every donation makes an impact — no matter how big or how small.

"In the end," she said, "receiving just a penny would be enough to help our cause."

*Originally published on [www.ALForVeterans.wordpress.com](http://www.ALForVeterans.wordpress.com).*



# Receiving scholarship during pandemic a ‘vote of confidence’

Spirit of Youth Scholarship recipient Morgan Jefford has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since she was born in 2001. With a great-grandfather who served in World War II, and an ALA Past National President for a grandmother (Janet Jefford, 2014-2015), her membership was inevitable.

“My grandmother has been super involved and got me involved in the ALA. I traveled to a convention with her once and she has kept [the American Legion Auxiliary] a constant in my life,” Morgan said.

Attending ALA National Convention with her grandmother was an eye-opening experience for Morgan.

“I just saw all the different types of people who were involved. It was just really cool because I always heard her talk about it, but I didn’t know how big it was until I went,” she said.

Like her grandmother, Morgan has a passion for service. She has been engaged with her local community, started clubs with her friends, and participated in service trips to Guatemala. As she attends Fordham University, she plans to pursue new service opportunities in New York City.

“Fordham is in the Bronx and there are other boroughs. I really want to do something to help kids who are less fortunate or come from a difficult family life,” Morgan said.

Upon receiving the Auxiliary’s Spirit of

Youth Scholarship, Morgan’s family was happy to have assistance with the exceptional price tag that comes with college, and her grandmother was extremely proud.

However, Morgan shared that in a pandemic when so many things have been negatively affected, the scholarship meant even more to her.

“It was just a piece of really good news. Someone out there thought I deserved this money and they had faith that I was going to use my college education for good and that I was going to do something. It was just a really nice vote of confidence,” Morgan said.

When asked what she would say to those who make ALA scholarships possible, Morgan pointed out how important the scholarships are to young students and to the future of the ALA.

“Receiving a scholarship reinforces that idea that you are going to somewhere academically and that you are smart and that you have a bright future ahead of you,” she said. “For the recipients of scholarships, it reminds them to stay active in the organization.”

As someone who works very hard in school and believes that a quality education is vital to one’s impact, Morgan’s favorite quote by Nelson Mandela lines up with her philosophy on education perfectly: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

*Originally published on [www.ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com](http://www.ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com).*



# Patrick Ward discovers passion through Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Patrick Ward always thought of himself as an athlete. A fifth-generation U.S. Navy veteran, Patrick's physical health was always very important to him. That's why, when he sustained serious injuries while on active duty, Patrick struggled to be motivated in his everyday life.

After 55 surgeries and an amputation, Patrick wasn't sure what was next for him. Most days, even after his physical recovery, he wasn't interested in getting off the couch.

"I needed to get engaged in life again," Patrick said. "When your options change, you need to change your life, because otherwise you can get in a bad place."

While Patrick was healing, the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center encouraged him to get involved with the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, a program co-presented by the American Legion Auxiliary. Though arts had never been a major part of his life, he gave it a shot.

Despite never thinking of himself as a writer, Patrick quickly learned he had a knack for it. The inspiration he felt being surrounded by other veteran artists pushed Patrick to try something new — and it was a perfect fit.

Today he is a published writer, has won several awards, and writes a monthly column for a writer's magazine.

"If you don't think of yourself as creative, you don't have to be around [the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival] long before you start to dream," Patrick said.

"Being near people who are so brilliant and so talented and so outgoing, I leave energized and I always think I can do anything."

Patrick credits the American Legion Auxiliary with enhancing the experience for him by going above and beyond to serve the artists — bringing them quilts when they were outside in the snow, providing them with a hospitality room, and always encouraging them to do their best.

This newfound talent and artistic expression truly turned things around for Patrick, who once felt lost.

"I thought those doors were closed, but it's so personal, life-changing, and a second chance," Patrick said, holding back tears.

"I always say if you get that second chance, grab it, run, and don't look back."

*Originally published on [www.ALForVeterans.wordpress.com](http://www.ALForVeterans.wordpress.com).*





# Sadie Chamberlain finds her voice through ALA Girls Nation

In the United States, women are underrepresented in government at all levels. In 2019, though women made up roughly 50% of the population, they held only 28.9% of state legislatures, and 23.7% of US Congress seats. Sadie Chamberlain, a 2019 American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation senator, believes that programs like ALA Girls Nation could help more young women develop the skills and confidence they need to change that norm.

“This program encourages young women not to second guess themselves or apologize for their opinions,” Sadie said.

“It reminds us that if you have something to say, you should say it, and the more we can learn about our government, the more we can give ourselves a more equal and inclusive role in it.”

For Sadie, a recent high school graduate with mild cerebral palsy, this empowered sense of self was life changing. She was able to speak with Vermont state senators about the policies she believed in at ALA Vermont Girls State and had the opportunity to present a mock bill

to her peers from around the country at ALA Girls Nation.

“The amount of respect and dignity I received, despite my physical limitations, reminded me that should I choose to pursue a path in government, that I can do so confidently because of the power that ALA Girls Nation gave me,” Sadie said.

For all of the opportunities and memories made at ALA Girls Nation, Sadie took away the philosophy that power is in the collective. Though an individual can inspire the collective, Sadie said that working together is one of the most important disciplines she learned throughout her time in the program.

She hopes to carry this notion into her studies as she pursues a degree in psychology at Saint Michael’s College in Vermont. Sadie believes psychology and the law are intertwined, and that her psychological knowledge could make a positive impact and enhance the quality of government policies.

*Originally published on [www.ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com](http://www.ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com).*



# ALA Foundation helps Jerome Ford serve fellow veterans at The Crawford House

In March 2019, a bomb cyclone hit Colorado Springs, Colo., and devastated The Crawford House, a veterans transitional housing center accommodating up to 13 veterans at a time.

“I was called by one of my managers,” said Jerome Ford, U.S. Air Force veteran and program manager at The Crawford House.

“Everybody was sheltered in place, so I had to remain in place until I could get there in the morning and see what was going on.”

When he arrived the next morning, Jerome was shocked by the extent of the damage. He was surprised that no residents were injured. The roof was hanging off the back side of the building, and water was seeping in through what little covering was left. The staff was able to set up housing for the veteran residents at a local hotel, but they knew it was a temporary solution.

Soon, they discovered that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs wouldn't be able to send anymore veterans to the facility until it was fully repaired, and money was running low. That's when community partners in the area stepped up to help. Among them: the American Legion Auxiliary.

“The American Legion Auxiliary is just one of those organizations that comes ready to serve veterans and help out this community,” Jerome said. “I think it's absolutely amazing.”

A local ALA unit applied for a Veteran Projects Fund grant from the ALA Foundation and was awarded \$5,000 to support The Crawford House in their effort to rebuild their refuge for homeless veterans. Jerome explained how the grant was able to cover repairs the insurance could not and sped up the process of rebuilding.

With the help of the Veteran Projects Fund grant, The Crawford House was able to reopen its door to veterans in need in April 2020, more than one year after disaster struck. Jerome and fellow staff are still in awe at the ways so many organizations rallied to help them recover.

“I would say to donors: Thank you, and continue to support these grants and your community,” Jerome said, “because your service to us makes a profound difference in veterans' lives.”

*Originally published on [www.ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com](http://www.ALAforVeterans.wordpress.com).*



Junior members of the ALA Department of Florida assembled hygiene kits for homeless women veterans as a way to engage the younger generation in participating and serving others.



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

**We are the American Legion Auxiliary.**

**We are called to serve.**

**We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.**

**We are loyal to our United States Constitution and to those who protect it.**

**We are humbled by the courage of our veterans and their families.**

**We are alone, yet we stand together.**

**We are daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. We are family.**

**We are of every color. We are of every faith.**

**We are of every age.**

**We are anyone and everyone.**

**We are common and extraordinary.**

**We are citizens.**

**We live in small towns.**

**We live in suburbs.**

**We live in cities.**

**We work in fields, in factories, warehouses, offices, at home.**

**We are a community. We help one another.**

**We love our flag and all that it stands for.**

**We are many. We are one.**

**We are the American Legion Auxiliary. A Community of Volunteers  
Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.**

**We commit ourselves to the ideal: *Service Not Self.***