

BOOK OF REPORTS

CHAPLAIN 2024-2025

At the end of the 2025 year, the Department of Arizona had 40 out of 85 Units actively working the Chaplain Program. Two Districts sent in reports. Two Unit's reports did not meet the criteria by Department of Arizona Guidelines for reporting for awards. Out of the 40 reports, only three included some type of narrative that was eligible for a Department award. Those three were then judged by three persons not affiliated with the American Legion Family. None were sent after the May 1 deadline.

The Chaplain educated members and fellow chaplains by sharing information in the Department Monthly Bulletins, and the BandApp. Information was also shared on social media.

Of the Units reporting, there were 202 "Sympathy" cards sent to members and families. There were 221 "Get Well" cards sent to members. There were 467 "Thinking of You" cards sent to members. There were 782 "Joy" and birthday cards sent to members; and 195 check welfare phone calls made to members. Several Units and Posts also have members that regularly visit nursing homes and hospitals, including the VA clinics, hospitals, and homes throughout the state.

Unit and District Chaplains conducted 669 Invocations at Unit and District meetings, special events and holiday functions. They conducted 543 benedictions. Units and Districts also conducted 84 charter draping ceremonies and presided over 58 memorial services. They promoted and supported "Gold Star" families by paying their dues, sending cards and monetary and non-monetary gifts. These donations totaled \$361.00. Donations from members for "Gold Star" families and memorial donations totaled \$5194.00. Some held luncheons in their honor.

There were 576 members that attended 98 funerals for members and members of the remaining entities of the Post Family. There were 147 grave markers placed. This included "Wreaths Across America", where many Units participated in some capacity.

In February, all the Units reporting participated in a Four Chaplains Ceremony in some capacity, either on their own or with the Post Family.

Eleven Unit Chaplains are creating a prayer book for their Unit President. Thirteen are helping with the Department President's Prayer Book, and four are participating in sending in prayers for the National President's Prayer Book.

In August, the Department Chaplain attended the American Chaplain's and Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis. The Chaplain was the only chaplain from Arizona and the only Auxiliary Chaplain in attendance. The Chaplain gained a wealth of spiritual knowledge, as well as Children and Youth programs, while attending the Girls State meetings with the Arizona Girls State Director, after her meetings concluded for the session.

Upon returning home to Arizona, the Chaplain promoted what she had learned at the conference and continued to support members and their families.

Unfortunately, this Chaplain and the Department lost five Past Department Presidents this year. Those Past Department Presidents were Josephine Herrera, Helen Stout, Jennie Molina, Centennial Tyson-Stewart, and Joyce Arent. Legion Family Memorials were held by the families of two of the Past Department Presidents, in which the Chaplain attended, while the other three held private family memorials. The Department Chaplain sent 30 "Sympathy" cards, 15 "Get Well" cards, and made 28 welfare check phone calls, checking on members and Past Department officers, whom had medical procedures, and deaths in the family. The Chaplain also conducted ten invocations, and seven benedictions throughout the year at various events, dinners, and meetings, including the DEC meeting after Convention and meetings at Fall Conference.

The Department of Arizona Auxiliary Chaplains and members will continue to "Lead the Way" to support veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen, Department Chaplain