

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
National Security Report
Chairwomen Barbara White
2024/2025

American Legion Auxiliary members in the Department of Arizona were busy this year supporting the active military, cutting coupons, delivering supplies to active military in the California fire, attending CERT classes, hosting and attending blood drives, handing out Blue and Gold Star banners to families, supporting JROTC programs, volunteering at the USO. These are just a few of the programs that were reported.

Thomas Friendlander, National Security Chairman for the Irving B Selver Unit 107 assisted military families stationed at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme. Unit 107 was mobilized to assist in family relocations and emergency response efforts. Thomas went above and beyond, personally dedicating 22 hours and driving 907 miles to help affected families evacuate and settle into temporary accommodations. His actions exemplify the Auxiliary's mission to protect and uplift those who defend our nation.

Coupons were clipped and shipped overseas for a total of \$10,190. Erenest A Love Unit 6 sent coupons four times a year with 200-300 coupons. (No dollar amount was provided.) They in turn, received a Certificate of Appreciation for their effort from Federica Lemauk, the Army Community Service Officer in Germany. They were informed they supported over 55,000 families with coupons in all their commissaries overseas.

At the District 8 meetings, items were collected for active military for a total of 18 boxes. Personal items, books, snacks, sewing kits, wet wipes, hats, and toiletries were collected.

Twenty-four members of the Roy Fourr Unit 24 attended a CERT program.

A bell for the U.S.S. Arizona submarine is being built. The bell will be made from the grommets of retired flags. The project is being led by Past Detachment Commander, Chris Balsley, member of Squadron 91. ALA members of the Wayne V McMartin Unit 91 had several "Grommet Cutting Parties". They also strung the grommets on wire for the left-over fabric to be 'burned' off the grommets.

Roy Fourr Post 24, Wayne V McMartin Post 91 and Merrill-Mitchell Post 39 families had the honor of hosting the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation members.

Member units invited JROTC's to perform the POW/MIA ceremony. Units also presented the Military Excellence and Scholastic Excellence medals. ALA members were honored to present the medals to the students.

The Units also donated money to the JROTC programs they support. Roy Fourr Unit 24 donated \$1,500, Apache Unit 27 donated \$300, Fred A Humprey Unit 8 \$500, and Mathew B Juan Unit 35 \$1,000,

Blood drives were scheduled and ALA members participated. A total of 217 members participated in blood drives.

John J Morris Unit 62 supports the Luke Air Force Base. Sponsoring seven families at Christmas, sponsoring 30 children to go to the Wildlife Zoo, and providing Christmas gifts, to name a few. Unit 62 is the closest Unit to Luke Air force Base.

Units signed Christmas cards to send to the troops overseas. Children from several schools made cards. ALA President Stacey Mayberry was invited to sign Christmas cards with members at Pat Tillman Unit 107 Christmas Card signing party.

Units donated \$5,370 to the Phoenix Sky Harbor airport USO. ALA members donated 108 hours working at Phoenix Sky Harbor USO.

Units reported displaying the POW/MIA flag/chair cover at unit meetings. It was also displayed at the Department Fall Conference and Department Convention.

Supporting military families is extremely rewarding. Units reported helping 435 families, 11,694 hours, and \$17,181 was spent assisting the families. Some of the tasks were babysitting, cooking, hosting baby showers / diaper drives, yard work, spending time with families

Two units participated in Welcome Home "Parties". Forty-nine ALA members and 120 hours were donated to these events.

Only 3.2% of the Units in the Department of Arizona reported to this Chairwomen.
However, of those 3.2%, the members did an outstanding job in serving the active military and their families, donating time and money, and helped where it was needed.

Word Count: 642