



National Security

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan 2025-2026

The National Security Program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families as we focus on our mission.

Chairman Deb Weatherbee (#179 - 5th District)
3544 Micheal Ave SW Apt. 103
Wyoming, MI 49509
616-723-2398
deb560@hotmail.com

Peggy Meyer (#18 - 10th District)
304 Hart Street
Essexville, MI 48732
618-520-2008
lucky_penny86@yahoo.com

What is this program, and why do we have it?

1. Support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve, and transitioning military service members and their families.

- Send care packages
- Check on the needs of military families
- Present Blue and Gold Star Banners
- Wear RED on Fridays to “Remember Everyone Deployed”

2. Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment.

- Support military job fairs in your community and volunteer to staff ALA information booths at job fairs for military spouses

3. Support the National Security Programs of the American Legion.

- Prepare emergency preparedness kits (Be prepared for a major emergency. In Michigan, that could include tornadoes, snowstorms, fires, extended loss of power, etc.) A simple kit could include bottled water, batteries, flashlights, blankets, non-perishable food, and a first aid kit. Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community.
- Consider taking CERT training (Contact your local emergency management agency or fire department to inquire about CERT training opportunities in your area.) Some organizations offer online CERT training courses, such as Ready.gov.
- Join with your Legion Post to host a POW/MIA ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is celebrated on the third Friday in September.
- Donate Blood – Assist in a blood drive in your community.

- Have a training exercise in your Post home to give training in first aid, CPR, or other types of emergency skills.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.
- Host a remembrance event for any MIA service members who have been identified from your area.
- Raise awareness of POW/MIA and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.
- Honor ROTC and JROTC cadets and recognize their accomplishments: Invite ROTC and JROTC to post colors or even volunteer at Unit events.
- Present red/white/blue cords to graduating high school seniors who will be entering the military after graduation.
- Give recognition in some manner to our local law enforcement, firefighters, first responders, and other essential workers. Recognition could be as simple as thank you cards, cookies, pizza, or a recognition dinner.
- Recognize National First Responders Day on October 28, 2025.
- Consider purchasing kitchen equipment for their station.
- Donate a gaming system or pay for a subscription to a streaming service.
- Stocking their freezer with higher-priced items.
- Donation to their local charitable causes or a national one, such as the Gary Sinise Foundation, which serves first responder families.
- Check with your local first responders to support a local family who has lost a member while servicing or with medical expenses.
- Support your community outreach programs, such as Shop with a Cop.
- Host a holiday meal for those who are working to protect us.

REPORTING:

Year-End Reports

Unit Reports are due to your **District Chairman** by **March 30, 2026**. Please include not only the questions/answers on the reporting form, but also any narratives describing your wonderful activities and participation in this program. Also, include pictures of the activities using JPEG. Any award submissions for the **Department Chairman** should also be sent to your District Chairman by this time.

District Reports are due to the **Department Chairman** by **April 15, 2026**. Please include not only the questions/answers on the reporting form, but also any narratives submitted by the Units on their wonderful activities and participation in this program. It is encouraged to include pictures using JPEG. Please submit only one entry from your District for each of the Department Awards (Agnes Dunn Citations, Imogene Cowgill Citation, and the Phyllis Van Hill Citation) submitted by your units. Be sure to include a completed and signed green slip.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

Agnes Dunn Citation: This citation is presented to promote the best all-around report on National Security work.

Imagine Cowgill Citation: This citation is presented to the Unit promoting the best crime prevention program or honoring a local officer.

Phyllis VanHill Citation: This citation is presented to the Unit promoting the best fire prevention program or honoring a local firefighter.

Salute to Servicemembers: Units can nominate one enlisted servicemember (male or female) from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserves—salute to Servicemembers Award Form (legion-aux.org). The nomination form is due to the Department Chairperson by April 15, 2026. Each Unit may have an entry from each of the seven branches.