

Department of Georgia National Security Program
Ann Parks, National Security Chairman
First Quarter Newsletter
September 19, 2018

The Georgia Lady Bugs have a National Security theme this year that states, "Informed Members Will Celebrate Freedom." Our National Security Program promotes a strong national defense by supporting servicemembers and their families.

Newsletters and information will be e-mailed and/or mailed quarterly. National Security is a very important program for the American Legion Auxiliary. We should study the rules and regulations so we can do an outstanding job.

The Blue Star Banners are very important to relatives who have people serving in the military today or who have served in the past. Each Unit should see if anyone in their area deserves these Banners. A Gold Star Banner is presented to a family who has lost a loved one in the service.

Units need to provide Emergency Readiness Training (ERT) programs for their members and provide them with material that would be of assistance in a time of emergency. Units can work with the Legion and have members take the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) and receive their certification.

Units should provide a POW-MIA table at their Veteran's Day Program. You can visit the Assisted Living and Nursing Homes and present the table to the members who will attend the presentation and learn the purpose of the table. It is amazing that a large number of people have never seen this presentation. All of the Units should have a POW-MIA chair at their monthly meetings and any of their events. **This is a requirement.**

Hopefully, Units are active in sending Care Packages to our Veterans. You can attend local civic clubs, churches and other organizations to assist you with this project, and help you find the names of people who need packages.

Units should sponsor blood drives for the Red Cross and Life Line. With the many disasters we currently experience, this would be a large assistance to our nation.

Volunteers are needed to meet with the USO at the Atlanta Airport and serve the food and drinks. You cannot know how much the military appreciates this performance if you do not see it.

Units should work with the Legion and the ROTC program. You can give small awards to some of the students in the programs. This will get your name out in the community and help you receive new members.

Make calls and write letters to your local Congressmen to help them support our Veterans and ask what you can do to assist them with this project.

Donations to the Fisher House in Augusta, GA really gets the Auxiliary's name out in the public. Many families stay after their family member has been injured in combat and goes to the hospital near the Fisher House for treatment. These people will want to be a part of this organization.

The State of Georgia, General Assembly recognized Thursday November 19, 2017 as Gold Star Father Day in Georgia. HR273 was adopted by the Georgia House of Representative on Friday, March 24, 2017. A ceremony was held at the Georgia State Capitol on November 19, 2017 to honor gold star fathers living in the State of Georgia. We need to continue searching for men who deserve this honor.

Wreath Across America is very close to the hearts of those who have lost love ones in the military. We have a National Cemetery at Milledgeville, GA, and one in Canton, GA. Each year a Wreath is placed on each grave for Christmas. Any funds donated is greatly needed to help them with the expense.

Check with your local armory and see if they have families living in your area that would appreciate your assistance. Perhaps you could carry them food for the variously holidays. Maybe you could sit with their children and let the mothers go to a movie or have lunch or dinner with one of their friends. Let them have some time of their own. Maybe they would like to go shopping and cannot afford to pay for baby sitters. This would give them an opportunity to see what excellent programs the Auxiliary provide for others and they may want to join the organization.

If our organization has it name and its activities shown to the public, and they see what excellent programs we have, they will want to become a member. We will only have to ask them once. They may surprise you, and ask how they can become a member. In the past, this has been an excellent way that we find new members who are interested.

Each member should keep a record of their hours, money and information on what they are doing for the National Security Program. This information should be given to the National Security Chairman in each Unit so they can do a report to the District and State. This is reported to Congress by National Headquarters. It helps to maintain our tax-exempt organization. The state chairman has to prepare a mid -year report by January 1 each year and a final report by the first of June.

Please contact me with any questions or assistance at redhat31039@bellsouth.net or call me at 770-967-3493. Please leave me a message if I do not answer the phone, and I will return your call within one or two days after the message is received.

For God and Country
Ann Parks, National Security Chairman
The Department of Georgia