

NATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE March 2024

Michelle Potuzak, Chair Wendy Edmisten, member Beth Koraska, member

MARCH – WOMEN & SERVICEMEMBERS CHANGING HISTORY

Month of March – WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

- Check out the U.S. government's official website honoring Women's History Month (WomensHistoryMonth.gov).
- Get involved with local military installation observances including fitness events, celebrations, and parades.

March 3 - NAVY RESERVE BIRTHDAY

 Donate/volunteer with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (https://www.nmcrs.org/), USO (https://northcarolina.uso.org/), the Red Cross (https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina.html), or other organizations that support Reserve interests.

March 4 - HUG A GI DAY

- Give a service member a hug but always ask first! Many have back and knee problems, chronic pain, PTSD, or other issues. Handshakes, 'virtual hugs' on social media, and letters are also appreciated!
- March 5 **SEABEE BIRTHDAY:** Seabee is an abbreviation of the name U.S. Naval Construction Battalions. "Seabee" comes from abbreviating "Construction Battalions" to C.B. and with some creativity the spelling as "Seabee." If you know one, thank them for their service.

SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS AWARD

The Department's goal: submit an entry for EACH BRANCH of the military for these awards. We need you to achieve this!

National will award a winner for each branch of service - Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard and Reserve. Please let us know should you need help with the application. Winners will be guests of the Auxiliary at National Convention. You can find out more information about this award on the National website:

Salute to Servicemembers Award (legion-aux.org)

March 13 – K-9 VETERANS DAY: A Military War/Working Dog (MWD), is trained to protect humans in dangerous situations.

- Be sure to thank a military dog or their handler for their service or donate to an organization that helps support military dogs.
- Visit a war dog memorial site (Special Ops K9 Memorial Fayetteville).

March 15 - AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY

- Have a party at your Post honoring your Legion Members.
- Check out the National website for ideas: Birthday | The American Legion
- Contact the local media to publish a story about The American Legion.

March 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY

<u>March 21</u> – **ROSIE THE RIVETER DAY:** This day represents a time of cultural shifts for women in the workplace and the beginning of societal evolution.

March 25 - MEDAL OF HONOR (MOH) DAY

- Fly the United States flag at your residence or business (#Americanism).
- Attend a ceremony honoring the fallen with Taps/lowering of the flag.
- Attend a ceremony honoring living Medal of Honor recipients or support MOH societies (https://www.cmohs.org/).
- <u>March 29</u> **NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY:** U.S. Armed Forces on active duty service from 11/1/55 to 5/15/75, regardless of service location includes: 9 million Americans serving at that time, 6.4 million Americans living today, 2.7 million service members who served in Vietnam, 58,000 whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation's capital, 304,000 who were wounded, 1,253 Missing in Action (MIA) and 2,500 Prisoners of War (POWs). (*Source: www.veterans.com*) Be sure to thank a Vietnam Veteran today.

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We want to hear from you! Post pictures of your events on the Dept. of NC Facebook page (see link below).

Be sure to report everything you do to michelle.potuzak@yahoo.com.

Join Us on FACEBOOK: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPT OF NC





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IMPORTANT PROGRAM INFO

- The National Security (NS) Program
 Plan, End-Of-Year Report, and monthly
 National Security updates with
 suggestions for activities can be found
 on the Department website:
 https://www.alanorthcarolina.com/.
- ALL UNITS SUBMITTING AN EOY REPORT BY
 APRIL 30 WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING
 FOR \$100. Reports can be sent in as
 weekly/monthly updates. Narrative
 reports are also encouraged! Volunteer
 hours are the most important item to
 report! Send reports to:
 michelle.potuzak@yahoo.com
 or
 Michelle Potuzak, 15908 Lavenham
 Road, Huntersville NC 28078



The best Unit report will be submitted for the National, Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program award.

ONGOING NS ACTIVITIES

- Wear **RED** on Fridays **R**emember **E**veryone **D**eployed.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings. Fly the POW/MIA flag at your Post.
- Cut and send coupons for our troops: https://supportourtroops.org/troopons
- Organize a blood drive or simply take time to donate blood.

Hiring Our Heroes

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Information from: https://www.hiringourheroes.org/

The US Chamber Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes Program (HOH) connects the military community—service members, military spouses, and veterans—with American businesses to create economic opportunity and a strong and diversified workforce. Since 2011, Hiring Our Heroes (HOH) has worked to create meaningful employment opportunities for transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses. Through world-



class hiring events, digital programs, upskilling opportunities, and fellowships, HOH has developed and cultivated a rich pipeline of military-connected talent ready for businesses nationwide.

<u>Career Summits</u> - HOH Career Summits connect transitioning service members, veterans, military spouses, and military caregivers with military-ready employers. These on-base events feature local, regional, and national employers and typically include industry-focused workshops, interactive panel discussions, and a career fair.

Register for a Summit (hiringourheroes.org)

Hiring Fairs - HOH hiring events connect military community job seekers from around the globe with American businesses hiring for local, national, and remote opportunities. These events take place on military installations around the world and in communities throughout the U.S. as well as online. HOH events have been held in every U.S. state as well as on military installations in Germany, Italy, Japan, and Puerto Rico.

Register for a Hiring event (hiringourheroes.org)

<u>Connecting In-Person and Online</u> - HOH hiring fairs bring together employers and military community job seekers for geographically-or industry-focused events, both in-person and virtually.