

SEPTEMBER IS A GREAT MONTH FOR NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES!

Sept. 15 (3rd Friday) - **NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**

- Fly the POW/MIA flag at your Post.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.
- Raise funds to support the identification and finding of our POW/MIA.
- Join with your Legion post to host a POW/MIA ceremony at your local POW/MIA memorial (or other location if you don't have one).
- Host a remembrance event for any MIA servicemembers who have been identified from your area.

Sept. 18 - **AIR FORCE (USAF) BIRTHDAY & AIR NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY**

Sept. 24 (last Sunday) - **GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY**

- Let your unit know of any military families or businesses that should receive a Gold Star Banner in recognition of a servicemember's service.
- Have a ceremony honoring your local Gold Star mothers.
- Share a meal, a smile and maybe a tear or two. Take a Gold Star Mother to their loved one's favorite restaurant or find a restaurant that serves their loved one's favorite meal or dessert.
- Plant a plant or tree in their honor. Maybe in a special place the family has set aside to go where they remember their loved one.
- Important: say the name of the children. With permission, post pictures of the servicemembers from your community on social media with a message such as "Remembering the Families Left Behind".
- Light a candle - there is light in the darkest parts of our lives. Remind Gold Star Families their loved one's life will always be remembered.

Month of September - **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH** - Hurricane Idalia's most unwelcome trip to our state brings to mind hurricane season (Sept-Nov). Are you ready? Here's how you can help:

- Distribute information to Unit and Post members on disaster preparedness kits and emergency plans. Emergency preparedness kits can be assembled at your post. For more info on what to include: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.
- Team up with local hospitals, police, fire departments to share their information. Offer to assist them if needed.
- Volunteer to help on the disaster drills held in your community.
- Encourage your members to complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).
- Set up a "wellness check" for members in case of a disaster.
- With permission of Post, offer Post as a 'place of shelter' if needed.
- Offer to volunteer as a first responder with the Red Cross, etc. in case of disaster.
- Organize a blood drive or simply take time to donate blood.

Month of September - **NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH**

Ongoing: Wear Red on Fridays. **R**emember **E**veryone **D**eployed.

We want to hear from you! Post pictures on the Dept of NC FaceBook page (see link below). Be sure to report everything you are doing to michelle.potuzak@yahoo.com.

Join Us on FACEBOOK: [AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPT OF NC](#)