

## HONORING OUR RICH HISTORY

### Month of February – **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

- Take time to learn about their rich history in our military. Share some of the courageous and heroic stories at your general membership meeting:  
<https://www.military.com/history/black-history-month-overview.html>.

### Feb. 2 – **GROUNDHOG DAY**

### Feb. 3 – **FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY**

- Host a Four Chaplains ceremony at your Post honoring their sacrifice.
- [https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/60MAG\\_0120%20Four%20Chaplains%20Brochure\\_0.pdf](https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/60MAG_0120%20Four%20Chaplains%20Brochure_0.pdf) (*Four Chaplains Brochure*)

### Feb. 4 – **USO BIRTHDAY**

- Be sure to attend a USO programmed event at a military base or USO location.
- Encourage members to volunteer at your USO (<https://northcarolina.uso.org/>).
- Make a monetary donation to or fundraise for your local USO.

### Week of Feb. 12 – **NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS**

- Help members understand “the role of a VA medical center” and how they can get involved as a volunteer (<https://www.volunteer.va.gov/index.asp>).
- Encourage your members to visit hospitalized and nursing home veterans.

### Feb. 14 – **VALENTINE’S DAY**

- Share some love for active-duty service members/veterans by sending valentines. At Soldiers' Angels you can send your hand-made or purchased cards to soldiers who will appreciate your kind words. For more info:  
<https://soldiersangels.org/volunteer/special-campaigns/valentinesforveterans/>.
- Host a Valentine’s Day luncheon or dinner at your Post honoring area female veterans. Have a speaker focusing on women’s health and well-being, including veteran PTSD/suicide, and send them home with a special gift (a flower, coffee cup filled with candy, candle, etc).
- Send care packages to our troops (<https://supportourtroops.org/care-packages>).

### Feb. 19 – **PRESIDENT’S DAY**

- Host a ceremony at your local Post or park with a 21 Gun Salute. Military across the U.S. traditionally perform 21 gun salutes on President’s Day.
- Many military units use President’s Day as a time for service members to take their Oath of Citizenship. Be sure to see if you can participate in one.

### Feb. 19 – **COAST GUARD RESERVE BIRTHDAY**

- At any observance, you are likely to hear a recitation of the [Coast Guard Ethos](#). Honor them by reciting their pledge... Protect, Defend, Save – Always Ready!

## **ARE YOU A QILTER?**



**Quilts of Valor®**  
Quilts = Healing!

<https://www.qovf.org/>

A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, “Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation.”

To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded. Not a quilter? Please consider submitting someone for the award.



**OPERATION  
KID COMFORT**

<https://asymca.org/what-we-do/operation-kid-comfort/>

ASYMCA Operation Kid Comfort helps military children cope during deployments by providing loving, handcrafted quilts and pillowcases with custom photo-transfers. They help children handle the stress and loneliness that comes with being separated from a parent for a long period of time.

The ASYMCA sends 9 pictures of a military child with their deploying parent and the child’s favorite colors and things they like. Volunteers find fabric the child would like and put it all together. The quilts are mailed back, and the kids have daddy/mommy with them all the time. Volunteers can work with participating locations across the U.S.

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](mailto:michelle.potuzak@yahoo.com).

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

## **IMPORTANT NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM INFO**

- The National Security Program Plan, End-Of-Year Report, and Monthly Updates with suggestions for Unit/member activities can be found on the Department of NC 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](mailto: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 - **Remember Everyone Deployed**.
- 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.

## **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 \(legion-aux.org\)](http://legion-aux.org)

## **MID-WINTER CONFERENCE — DEPT. OF NC NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE PROJECT**

### **Collection for Troop Care Packages NC Packs 4 Patriots/Support Our Troops**

Ayden, NC — In operation since 2004 and sent care packages to over 200,000 troops — all over the world — just last year alone!



### **PLEASE BRING THESE ITEMS TO MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**

- **GIFT CARDS** – Amazon \* Walmart \* Visa – any amount (helps the organization to purchase items to send to our troops)
- **WRITTEN LETTERS/CARDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT OR PRAYERS** (please do not seal the letters/cards) - could your Unit do just 20 cards/letters – feeling ambitious, how about 100? Donation checks should be written to: NC Support Our Troops.

*OR, if you cannot make it to Mid-Winter Conference:*

- **ORDER ITEMS FROM THEIR AMAZON WISH LIST** (ships directly to NC Packs 4 Patriots/Support Our Troops). You can find the Amazon Wishlist on their Facebook page: [NCpacks4patriots/supportourtroops](https://www.facebook.com/NCpacks4patriots/supportourtroops) or follow this link: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Be sure to write '**NC ALA National Security Project**' in the gift message for each item you send so we can keep track. Also, for the address, be sure to select "Barbara Whitehead's Gift Registry Address."