

## APRIL – CELEBRATING OUR MILITARY CHILDREN

Month of April – **MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD:** ([www.veteran.com](http://www.veteran.com) has lots of great resources and suggestions)

- Recognize the month with military-focused signs/decorations in front of your home.
- Search for events with your Military Family Readiness Centers/bases including base Child Development Centers (daycare).
- Ask your local schools to host an assembly for Month of the Military Child or classrooms to create a Bulletin Board “What does HONOR mean to you...” and share on social media. Give a prize to the best board posted.



Month of April – **MILITARY SAVES MONTH**

- Inspiring military to save each month to reduce debt and establish savings goals.
- Military installations everywhere will host financial planning events, fairs, seminars, classes and one-on-one counseling throughout April. Check with your local installation for events to find out how your members can help.

April 5 – **GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY**

- Let your unit know of any military families or businesses that should receive a Gold Star Banner.
- Take a Gold Star Spouse out to dinner or provide a meal. Be sure to offer a listening ear.

April 9 – **NATIONAL FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY:** for those that made it home.

- Fly the POW/MIA flag and honor former POWs at your Post. Use *#FormerPOWRecognitionDay* on social media.

April 14 – **AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY**

- Volunteer with the Red Cross (<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina.html>) or Air Force Aid Society (<https://afas.org/>).

April 15 – **PURPLE UP! DAY:** ([www.veteran.com](http://www.veteran.com) has lots of great resources and suggestions)

- Wear Purple on April 15<sup>th</sup> – and encourage all members to do so.
- Partner with local schools to find creative ways to celebrate and recognize military children ([Military-Kid-Certificate](#)).
- Invite local businesses to post a Purple Up! message. Suggest companies ask their employees to wear purple.
- Share your activities on social media #purpleup. You can also hold an online contest - maybe ask children of military families to share their “Hero Story” of what they think it takes to be a hero (include an essay, a drawing, or a video).
- Publicize military installation events scheduled on Purple Up! Day. Get your members involved.
- Ask your local schools, elected officials, and businesses to wear purple on this day in support of military children.



April 22 – **EARTH DAY**

April 23 – **ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY**

- Volunteer with the Army Emergency Relief (<https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/>) or USO (<https://northcarolina.uso.org/>).


April 30 – **NATIONAL MILITARY BRATS DAY**

- For ideas, check out the many activities for Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day.

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 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](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.

## THE GOLD STAR FAMILY

A **GOLD STAR FAMILY** is one that has experienced a loss of a loved one—an immediate family member – who died as the result of active-duty military service. Those who die in service to their country leave behind parents, siblings, spouses, children, and extended families. These are recognized as Gold Star families.

To purchase a Gold Star Banner or other related products please visit Flag & Emblem Sales: [American Legion Flag & Emblem](#).

## 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)



**2023 ALA Salute to Servicemembers Award Winners**

*Posted On: Tuesday, 29 August 2023 (www.legion-aux.org Blog)*

## 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.