



The world has been turned upside down since our last mailing. COVID19 has interrupted and halted our way of life as Americans and as a Legion Family. We are living in unprecedented times. My heart breaks for all the seniors, both in high school and college who will miss their senior proms, last sporting events, and traditional graduation ceremonies. It saddens me deeply that our Legion Family has had to cancel all the events that we look forward to each year: District meetings, Junior Camp, ALA THGS and TAL THBS, Legion baseball, Department Convention, National Convention and many other events across our state. Please remember that through it all the safety, health, and well-being of our members, and community, are our first concern.

I am thankful for social media, Facebook, Twitter, Facetime and now Zoom. This provides us with a sense of being connected. I am thankful for each time that I get to see you, even if it is only virtually. I have never been a huge fan of virtual technology. I felt and still do that face to face is best. However, I thank God every day for this technology which allows us to stay in touch and accomplish things that would have been impossible just a few years ago.

As ALA members we have proven ourselves resilient. Across the state we have continued to serve our veterans and community while practicing social distancing. I am so proud of each of you and your units. I am amazed at how you find ways to work our mission during COVID19. Thank you to all the Chairmen who are coming up with creative ways to work our programs during this time. Thank you for thinking of ways to work together. Your generosity of donations, of money and time to make the lives of our essential workers, veterans and homeless better is a true blessing. As I have said many times, I am so proud to be a part of such an amazing group of volunteers. You are living up to our motto "Service above Self."

Social distancing, self-quarantine and of course shelter in place are phrases I hope will soon be a thing of the past and that we never have to hear them again. I miss all of you dearly and cannot wait until we are together again (in person). I love you! Thank you for all the support you have given me and thank you to all units and individuals who have supported the President's Project!

If I can help you or your unit navigate this new normal, please contact me.

For God and Country,
ALA Proud and Strong.
Julie