

2022 DEC Chaplain's Report

Melissa Santana, the District 12 Chaplain provided the best report introduction when she wrote..." We, the Soul Surfers, are the ones that ride the waves less ridden. We remain steadfast and focused. We are riding the barrel down the pipe to where we are needed to support our Veterans and their families. And as we "Catch the Wave" and come to the beach break you see we are not beach bums."

I think we all agree that it's at the Unit level we "get er done". Our members know what needs to be done and so they find where their talents can be used...they send cards to Active Military, Veterans, family members. They prepare meals and deliver them to homes, they watch children while Veterans go to Dr appointments. They pray, hold a Veterans hand and just listen when a caregiver needs to talk. Our Chaplains drape charters, conduct memorial services, pray at services when called upon.

Of course what's a report without some statistics so here goes...

15 Districts submitted reports

5 Districts had 100% of their Units reporting.

5 Districts Reported they have Units planning to hold "4 Chaplains Services"

8 Districts reported having Gold Star moms

7 Districts reported a total of \$695.00 in donations to "In Loving Tribute" by their Units!

15 Districts reported at least 1 Unit and/or the District either Hosted, attended or participated in Events celebrating or acknowledging the following holidays:

Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, 9/11, Veterans Day or a services' Birthday.

From June 2021 through November a total of 2,305 cards were sent by those reporting.

Anniversary	39
Birthday	621
Congratulations	258
Encouragement	242
Get Well	337
Sympathy	278
Thinking of You	242
Other	288

The "Department Deceased Member Report" identifies a total of 75 members died between July 1st and December 31st. Every ALA member is precious to their loved ones, units, districts, our Department and to ALL the Veterans they served. They will be identified at our memorial service to be held at Convention in June. But I would like to acknowledge today that among those 75 precious souls is our Past Department President Terry Mikesell and Junior Past Department AL Commander Ed Grimsley.

In conclusion all our Units and Districts continue to work through the difficulties and losses we have experienced the last 2 years. They continue to pray and serve as best they can under these difficult circumstances. We are grateful for our Veterans and the sacrifices they and their families make every day.

Thank you Madame President for this assignment.

Grace Huston
Department Chaplain