



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA POPPY PROGRAM



February 2022 Bulletin

Dear Poppy Bouquets and Poppy Seeds,

Have you heard? The National Poppy Chairman, Sallie Rossman, has **challenged** all Units of the American Legion Auxiliary to place a poppy in every Veterans window across the country. Auxiliary members, the challenge is on! Unit members are asked to place a poppy in the window of each Veteran in your community, which will help citizens to recognize the sacrifice of Veterans and their families. This Flower Girl expects California to step up to the challenge, to put our state in the spotlight.

Chairman Rossman suggests "engaging schools, youth organizations, churches, and Legion Family members to allow children and adults to distribute a red poppy to place in the window of a Veteran with a note provided by the Auxiliary. This note would thank the Veteran for their service and request that the poppy be placed in a window. Students using the poppy bookmark could create red poppies for sharing. This experience will allow Auxiliary members to share the poppy's history while interacting with the community."

The Introduction of the poppy, history and the Poppy Poster Contest to students creating the poppy will further explain honoring the Veterans service to our Country. Units and members can donate art supplies to make poppies, poppy cards, and delivery to Veterans in nursing homes and hospitals (another avenue of extending our mission into the community). Suggestion: The poppies before delivery could create a Poppy Wall of Honor at a school, church, Post, or community event. Suggestion: Members work with area businesses to create a Poppy Wall of Honor (a poppy-designed emblem with the name) within the business to honor all Veterans employed. The honored Veterans would receive a poppy and a personal thank you."

Attached are two templates that may be used: one says, "Proud Home of a Veteran" and the other one says, "Proud Home of a Veteran Caregiver". More ideas and information may be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy>.

You can get as creative as you want! Be sure to take pictures. And lastly, include your participation in your End of Year Reporting. Let's see poppies in windows wherever we look and make this a successful challenge for California.

The Poppy Program includes several contests which can teach our youth about the meaning of the poppy and how we honor our veterans. If your unit has not started contacting schools for the Poster contest, it's not too late. The deadline for both the Poster and Little Miss Poppy/Miss Poppy contests is May 1. The rules for these contests are on the website. Don't forget to enter the Poppy Display Contest at Convention.

It was wonderful to see so many again at DEC. I met people whose names I recognized, and now can put a face to some of them. Some of you showed an interest in making poppies for next years programs. That is so awesome! More information will be coming to those of you who showed an interest: Rancho Cucamonga Unit, District 26, District 16 and Diane Delashmit. If your unit or district was left out, please send an email to me.

Has your Unit begun to plan activities for National Poppy Days?

Honor the Fallen, Support the Living

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