



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY • DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jeannie Román, Department National Security Chairman

January 2021

We are currently having an extremely unusual year with the Covid19 pandemic affecting so many. Therefore, we must do all we can to help our service members and their families. I believe it is especially important to safely keep the military family grounded in these hard times. While families are quarantined it is important to keep them engaged anyway possible. It is a strain on families who have a parent deployed and must juggle home schooling, work and being a single parent. As most military families live away from extended family the children miss out on interacting with grandparents and other family members. I am sure we all know grandparents who are missing their grandchildren and would love to help home school a child or do grocery shopping or help catch up on laundry. There are always chores to be done.

We have an active program here at the Minot AFB that we call "Adopt an Airman". A local family includes an Airman in family activities. This might include joining a family for a home cooked meal, movie night or attending a ballgame or church services etc.... basically just inclusion with a family whenever possible. It would be easy to have airmen help those military families as well. Since some retired persons cannot be in public they could help with shopping or bringing the vehicle for an oil change. There is so many ways to help each other. I was born and raised in a US Navy family with my father often being out to sea for 6 to 9 months at a time. We had no family around and moved about every year and a half. My mother immediately got us involved anyway she could. It is what made life normal for all of us. Everyone just wants to be needed. Especially military kids!

We also enjoy coming together to make tons of Christmas cards to give those airmen that are alone for Christmas also airmen can also help make cards for our Veterans as well. Do not forget other holidays. I will start Valentine Day cards in a couple of weeks! Tons of fun! Also, those who can sew could make some masks and veterans can always use blankets too. Although this is a difficult year, we need to remember to include others in our plans. We rely so much on our retirees to help with our National Security projects and so many are unable to help currently due to Covid19. It is nice to turn it around and have Airmen and other service members and their families help our Veterans and their families as well.

We can extend the gratitude of our Nation by providing Gold Star Banners to Gold Star Mothers with Honor and reverence as their children have made the ultimate sacrifice for this great Nation.

I would like to encourage our Auxiliary units to partner with other organizations that serve military families. Working with others who have the same passion as the American Legion family will help our family grow stronger so we can serve even more. Please remember to wear and protect our Brand when working with others.

Thank you,

*Jeannie Román*

Department National Security Chairman

Email: [nationalsecurity@ndala.org](mailto:nationalsecurity@ndala.org)