

National Security Program

The purpose of the National Security program is to promote a strong national defense.

1. Support active-duty military families
Remember that even if you aren't near to a military installation, there are still service members and their families in your neighborhood with active-duty military recruiters, National Guard, and reservists.
2. Raise awareness of POW/MIA and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.
3. Remember to support those Gold Star families whose service members made the ultimate sacrifice.
4. Support and enhance American Legion Family and partner initiatives that strive to improve the Quality of Life of our service members and their families by working with their command group and family readiness groups.

Some of the programs included in National Security include:

Quilts of Valor, Wreaths Across America, USO, food pantries which support service members and their families, Care Packages and cards to deployed service members, Gold Star banners for families who have lost a service member while deployed, Blue Star banners for families with deployed service members.

Activities that benefit and are targeted for active-duty service members are National Security activities. Activities that are intended for Veterans are VA&R activities.

The Salute to Service members Award honors one service member from each military branch at the National Convention. If you know of an outstanding service member who is also very involved in their community, please send their nomination to National Headquarters completing the Formstack and writing a narrative of up to 1,000 words which includes information about both their military service and their service to the community. The instructions are included on one of the attached National Security pages.

This year we are going to be sharing stories of our active-duty service members each Wednesday (Warrior Wednesday). You have the opportunity to provide us with the story of someone from your department or a family member. We are going to post these stories each week. There is a link included on one of the attached pages along with instructions of how to accomplish it. Additionally, I have received word that the link can be sent to the service member to fill out him or herself. This could make it more simple to accomplish. It is our hope that through these stories, our members who do not have contact with active-duty members will better understand the needs and find ways to assist. Please spread the news of this program to all your members so that we can recognize as many of our active-duty service members as possible.

Thank you to each Unit and member for all you do and have done to make the lives of our wonderful active-duty service members and their families happier and better.

LoAnn Dick, Department National Security Chairman