



Caring for Those Who Care for Others



Americanism

The Americanism Essay Contest Prompt ("*How can we support families who provide care to their Veterans?*") is an opportunity for President Kathy Daudistel's focus of "caring for those who care for others."

The promotion of Americanism is heartwarming to Veterans who have given so much to protect our Country. This in turn provides comfort to the Caregivers of our Veterans.

Community Service caring activities

1. For the elderly who are alone, send them a card or visit them.
2. The military families who have a loved one deployed, ask to sit with the kids so moms and dads can do their Christmas shopping or run errands. Provide gift cards to help them have a wonderful holiday.
3. A veteran who is at risk due to PTSD. Reach out to them and make sure they are doing well.
4. Talk to your city councils to see if there is any community initiative to help the members of the community. Maybe the food bank needs extra donations, as children will be home for the holidays or due to COVID and not getting their meals at school.
5. You could organize a soup and salad/sandwich lunch for the underserved children and adults in the community, so they have a nourishing meal.
6. With all the weather concerns throughout the country, does your community have an emergency plan in case of fire, blizzards, tornadoes, floods, etc.? If not, work with the community leaders to establish one or just start with your Unit and how you would call for help and check on each other in case of an emergency. Set up a hotline in your Unit to be used for any reason that a person would need help.
7. Check out the National website alaforveterans.org and go to the Community Service page under the member portal for information about The **Community Service Caregiver Appreciation Award**. It is a great way to acknowledge those members in your Units who are always there to volunteer to help.
8. Offer to hold a clinic that teaches CPR and emergency measures.
9. Host a community Blood Drive.

Children & Youth

A new initiative called the **Youth Caregiver Award** has become a part of the ALA Children & Youth program. This certificate can be downloaded from the department website, completed, and presented to any worthy young person who has demonstrated caregiving to another.

Education

1. A Junior member is assisting with the care of a parent or grandparent and is struggling to find the time to apply for scholarships. Legion, Auxiliary or a SAL member are also looking at other scholarships and need that extra time. Auxiliary members could help with the care long enough for the applicants to finish what they need to complete their application processes.
2. Same goes here for a candidate who is not necessarily a member who is applying for the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship. They must complete 50 hours of community service during their high school years.

Junior Activities

There is a new patch that Juniors can earn focused on caregiving. Many Juniors are helping to care for grandparents or other relatives. The **Caregiver Patch** requires Juniors to learn information and skills related to caregiving.

Poppy

This year, the Poppy Program incorporates focus on caring by ensuring that everyone understands that the poppy symbolizes the sacrifices made by our Veterans and that of their families and caregivers. The National Poppy Chairman's Challenge (to encourage stores in your town to put the pictures of veterans and/or poppy displays in their windows) this year will allow for community members to recognize both our Veterans and caregivers. Through this challenge – to encourage stores in your town to put the pictures of veterans and/or poppy displays in their windows – Unit are providing poppies in the windows to acknowledge both the Veterans and caregivers.

Public Relations

Incorporate Caring for Those Who Care for Others in Public Relations by telling units when they do something for caregivers, such as sending care packages, to promote what they're doing by telling the media, advertising, putting it on Facebook and remembering to show the Auxiliary brand. Check out the blog that was published for Caregivers on ALA National's Facebook page.

Service to Veterans

Caregivers can now be awarded "Service to Veterans" hours which may accumulate for hour bars for time spent providing care and assistance to Veterans within their families if they do not receive PROFESSIONAL compensation for doing so.

If the caregiver lives with the Veteran, they may be awarded ten hours a week. If they do NOT live with the Veteran relative, then they may be awarded five hours a week. The onus is placed upon the caregiver to report these hours through the existing structure within the unit and department. Only the highest earned hour bar will be awarded.