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ALA National President Kathy Daudistel and SAL National Commander Michael Fox place wreaths and flags on veteran graves.

ALA Continues Mission Momentum with a Giving Mindset



American Legion Auxiliary members, donors, and supporters all contribute to our mission. I sincerely thank all of you for giving your time, talent, and treasure to support our nation's veterans, military, and their families.

While our veterans and servicemembers are the soul of our mission, we also need to focus on caring for those who care for others — our military and veteran caregivers. When you donate to the various ALA and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation funds, you improve the lives of not only our veterans and servicemembers, but also those all across the country who silently stand in their support.

I am grateful that once again, you all stepped up to the challenge of continuing to work ALA programs during the pandemic. You found new ways to serve those who served. You didn't give up; you didn't give in — you pushed forward with momentum and perseverance. Together, you make a tremendous impact on those who have given so much of themselves to our country.

As we look ahead, I hope you continue to give back and honor our veterans, military, and their families for years to come.

-Kathy Daudistel, American Legion Auxiliary National President





Your Generosity Remains a Triumph



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, even a global pandemic could not stop the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation from awarding multiple grants to support veterans, military, and their families over the past year.

The ALA Foundation was able

to award 23 grants during this fiscal year, including two local Veterans Creative Arts Festival grants to programs in Colorado and Texas, as well as \$45,000 to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Five Veteran Projects Fund grants were awarded to ALA units to support emergent and innovative programs benefitting veterans, including a veterans-only food pantry, wheelchair-accessible picnic table benches, and a gaming system that blends fun with physical activity and mental stimulation.

Six Mission in Action grants were awarded to promote greater community awareness of the ALA with branded equipment such as pop-up tents, banners, and utility trailers.

Ten ALA entities received subgrants from local businesses and family foundations to support their missionrelated efforts and programs.

These projects, and others, were made possible by donors supporting the ALA Foundation during #GivingTuesday, designating funds as memorials for deceased members, and joining the Legacy Society.

The ALA Foundation Board of Directors is a team of dedicated individuals who are proud to work together with our donors to help secure the Auxiliary's legacy and improve the quality of life for future generations of veterans, military, and their families.

—Cathleen F. MacInnes, American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors President





Impact of the ALA

VOLUNTEER HOURS **SERVING VETERANS & MILITARY**

3,037,026

VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING MILITARY FAMILIES

328,330

VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING YOUTH, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMUNITIES

3,378,766

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

6,744,122



Impact of the ALA

RESOURCES RAISED & SPENT ON **VETERANS** & MILITARY

\$6,076,262

RESOURCES RAISED & SPENT ON **MILITARY FAMILIES**

\$600,838

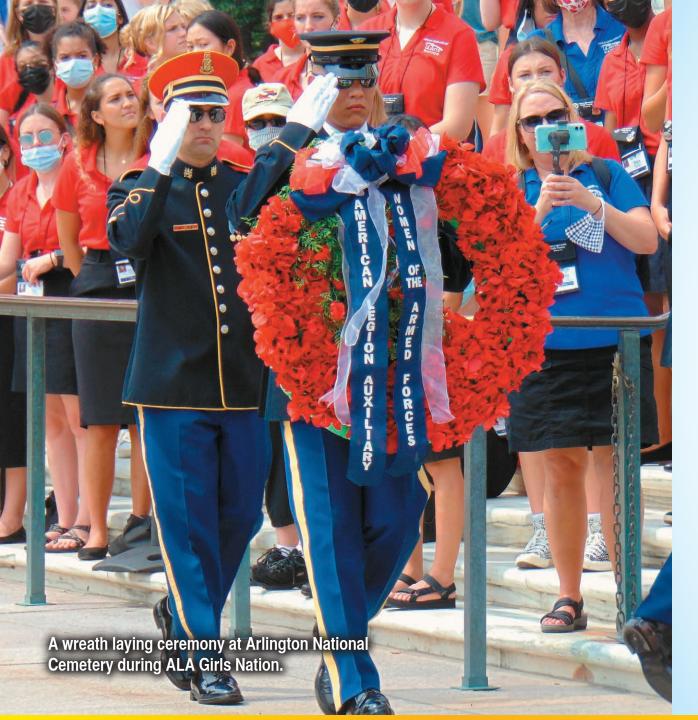
RESOURCES RAISED & SPENT ON YOUTH, SCHOLARSHIPS, **COMMUNITIES**

\$6,892,618

TOTAL RAISED & SPENT

\$13,569,718





Impact of the ALA Foundation

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

\$2.1 million

TOTAL GRANTS GIVEN

\$124,176.07

TOTAL GIVEN TO ALA PROGRAMS

\$45,000

U.S. STATES REACHED

17



Impact of the **ALA Foundation**

VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL GRANTS

\$5,000

MISSION IN ACTION **GRANTS**

\$17,563.28

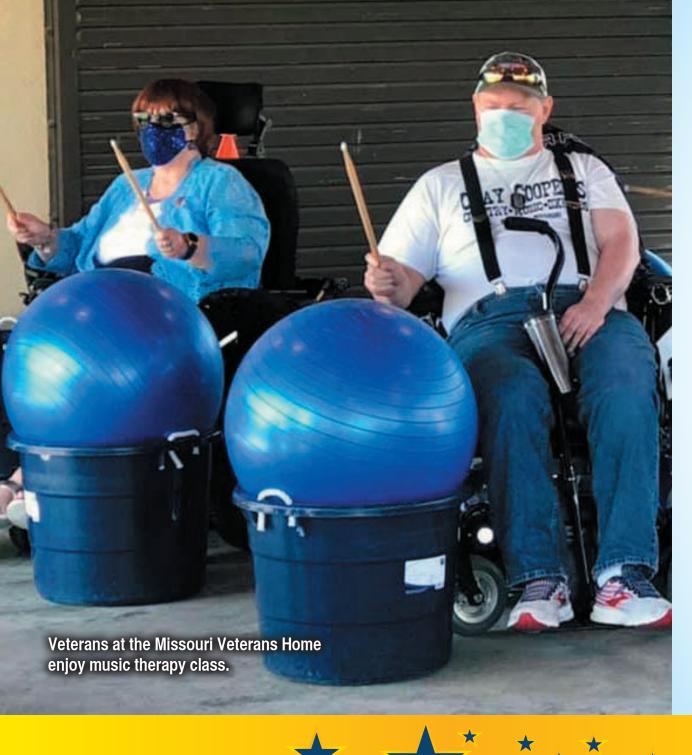
SUB-**GRANTS**

\$83,996.68

VETERAN PROJECTS FUND GRANTS

\$17,616.11







2020-2021 **Annual Donor Report** Recognizing **Donors Supporting Our Mission**

In more than a century of selfless service, our mission to support our nation's veterans, military, and their families has not wavered. Whether you give to honor a loved one, because you have served, or simply because you believe in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, we are grateful. Your contributions lifted the financial burden from members in need by providing nearly \$134,000 in Auxiliary Emergency Fund grants, gave hope and opportunity to young, deserving students through \$155,500 in scholarships, and made a major impact on the lives of countless veterans, military, and their families across the country. None of this was possible without YOU.

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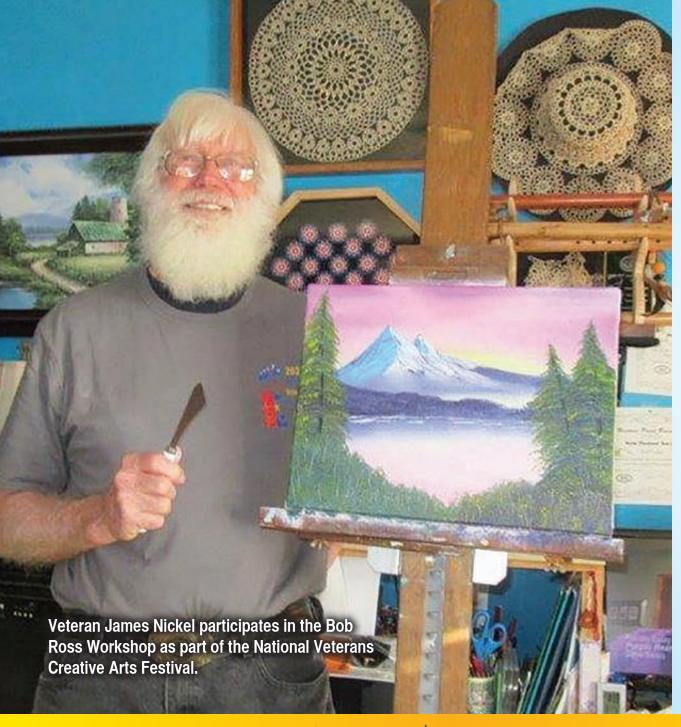
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- Michael G. Butt in honor of American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters directors
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- Mary A. Kirkpatrick in honor of Donald T. Kirkpatrick
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- Jeanne Paustian in honor of our daughter, National President Nicole Clapp
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- Lynn Rutherford in honor of William Clifford Honohan
- Debra St John Tiernan in honor of all our veterans
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- Jeri Greenwell in memory of Helen Audet (1997-1998)
- Jeri Greenwell in memory of Dianne Gerrish (1999-2000)
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- Laura Winkelman in memory of Jerrold Salisbury
- Mary Beth Wire in memory of Charles Roger Sigafoose
- Carol A. Wolf in memory of all those who have given their life for our freedom
- Miriam Wrenn in memory of Thomas L. Apperson
- Linda Young in memory of Ruth Troiber
- ALA Arkansas Unit 64 in memory of Brenda K. Harget
- ALA Arkansas Unit 64 in memory of Leon Payton
- ALA Unit 412 in memory of Ann Hoard
- CRC Group Chicago Office in memory of Wanda Lovely
- ALA Department of South Dakota in memory of Judith Howell





LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

A 12-year North Carolina member, a Paid Up For Life Illinois member, a Past National President, a Pennsylvania unit president, and a mother and daughter are some of the ordinary people doing extraordinary things for veterans, military, and their families. These individuals, 33 in all, make up the Legacy Society.

We ask that you join us in this mission by becoming a part of the Legacy Society — a group of dedicated individuals, members, and nonmembers alike, who have given or committed a planned gift to the American Legion Auxiliary or American Legion Auxiliary Foundation in their estate plan.

Your gift — no matter the size — will provide future financial support to the Auxiliary. We are so grateful for the following donors who have already committed a planned gift:

Carlene Ashworth	Patricia L. Murray	Lois Lemke
Linda J. Boone	Rita Navarreté	Arvilla Norris
Nancy Brown-Park and James Park	Linda Newsome	Lydia Pickup
Ann Crawford	Marybeth Revoir	Grace S. Schulz
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Doris Hammeke	Jean Bender	
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You can contribute to the future of the American Legion Auxiliary or the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation by adding a planned gift to your will. Be it large or small, every gift adds up to help ensure the Auxiliary is here for generations to come. Learn more about the Legacy Society and how to make your commitment by going to www.ALAforVeterans. org/Planned-Giving.









HEROES GIVING HOPE

Love for our veterans and military is so strong that it is automatic, and now charitable donations to these brave men and women can be just the same. Giving monthly is an easy way to make a big impact that works with your budget and schedule. It's convenient, customizable, and cost effective. Most importantly, monthly gifts ensure a steady source of support for American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation programs, greatly benefitting our veterans, military, and their families.

We invite you to join Heroes Giving Hope — a group of individuals committed to providing long-term support for our veterans, military, and their families through monthly donations. We are so grateful for the donors on the following pages who have become a Hero . . .



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Music Therapy Benefits Veterans with PTSD

An extra emphasis during the month of June is placed on raising public awareness about issues related to post-traumatic stress disorder, reducing the stigma surrounding it, and helping ensure those who suffer from it have access to proper treatment. Since 2014, June has been known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.

For veterans, there are multiple ways to treat PTSD. One form of treatment is through creative art therapies, such as music.

At the Miami VA Healthcare System, music therapist Natalie Cole works daily to help those who have served our country navigate through the invisible wounds of war through music.

One aspect Cole enjoys about working with music and mental health in general is the ability to address emotions and memories indirectly.

"A lot of the therapies ask that you talk directly about what happened, so there's a little bit of exposure there; it's very purposeful," she said. "But the nice thing about music, we can address it through maybe songs that bring up events. The

emotions are there, and we don't have to say it exactly."

Cole has seen firsthand the power that music and art therapy has on our nation's veterans who are suffering from PTSD. Although many of them come to their first session skeptical of the benefits, many veterans leave transformed with an appreciation of this form of therapy.

"I don't want to say it's more beneficial because each thing is helpful in its own way — it's just a bit out of that traditional form of things," she said. "Music is connected to so much throughout our lives and throughout different cultures and throughout time as well."

For some veterans who are part of music therapy programs in VA facilities across the country, they get the opportunity to showcase the difference this form of therapy has made in their lives through local Festivals and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. To learn more about the creative arts services offered through the VA, visit www.va.gov. For more information on the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, go to www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/ national-veterans-creative-arts-festival.





For Veterans: Pantry at the Post Home

American Legion Auxiliary members across the country continue to demonstrate creative and helpful ways to serve our nation's veterans, military, and their families. Alley-White Unit 52 in Mountain Home, Ark., started a food pantry at its post home to help make a difference for veterans in the community.

"It's something that has always been important to me: that veterans don't go hungry," said unit member Suzan Kaye. "This is one project that has fallen into place like it was meant to be. This is the sort of thing the American Legion Auxiliary was meant to do."

Before a pantry at the post home was available, Kaye noticed a spike in veterans visiting a local food bank where she volunteered. Kaye knew there was a need for another food pantry in their small community and took the idea to her fellow Legion Family members.

"We have about 15-16 volunteers which are half our Legion and half our Auxiliary," Kaye said. "We have enough volunteers that no one has to volunteer more than once a month unless they choose to."

To help with the cost of starting a pantry at the post, Kaye applied for a Veteran Projects Fund grant through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. With assistance from the grant, they were able to purchase heavy-duty shelving, large plastic totes, a scale to weigh the donations, and a small file cabinet to maintain records.

"When you find a grant opportunity, go for it — you might get lucky! A huge thank-you to the ALA Foundation for making the grant available. It made all the difference," said Kaye.

Before opening, the Auxiliary hosted two food drives to help stock shelves. The pantry accepted more than 1,000 pounds of food from the drives and then added another 1,000 pounds the first week it was open. Unit 52 consistently has been able to assist about three to four veterans each week.

"We have been completely supported by our community," Kaye said. "We've been blessed. This is a very generous community to start with, but we have just been overwhelmed with the food and support we've received."





Student with a Passion for Service Receives **ALA National Presidents' Scholarship**

Anna Roberge, 18, a student at University of New Hampshire studying psychology, received the American Legion Auxiliary's Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship. Roberge has a passion for service and plans to spend her career helping others. With a grandfather who served in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, and a grandmother who's an active member in the American Legion Auxiliary, it's not hard to see where Roberge learned her Service Not Self spirit.

Roberge has a special passion for helping children. She dedicated her entire senior capstone project to reducing the stigma around mental illness in children. As a part of this, she created a support group for children at her local church and saw heartwarming results.

"After the support group, I saw what a difference it made. Even to this day when they see me, [the kids] run up to me and give me a big hug," Roberge said. "It's just such a nice feeling knowing that you can

change people's lives and views about themselves."

Receiving the ALA Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship meant a great deal to Roberge and her family. It served as a source of validation, as well as relieving the financial pressure that comes with college.

The scholarship has helped with the expenses of college to the point that Roberge is now eyeing a Ph.D. in psychology so she can better equip herself to go into the world and help those in need.

"I have a couple of paths I am looking to go in the future," she said. One of them is working in a children's hospital helping them through those psychological issues, or just a clinical psychologist for children in need, or working in the prison system to help the people within the prison."

No matter what path Roberge chooses, she will be helping many people in need, just as the American Legion Auxiliary's members have done for more than a century.





ALA Member Makes Masks and Provides for AEF

Natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires have not slowed in the pandemic, and the Auxiliary Emergency Fund has seen no shortage of applicants in need. Aware of this, Linda Doege helped support the AEF by sewing and selling masks.

Doege's unit engages in several ALA programs, such as the Poppy Program, collecting school supplies for students, and Junior members collecting comfort items for the local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs home. Because of the pandemic, most of these activities were cancelled, so Doege decided to start making masks and selling them, donating the proceeds to the AEF.

"When COVID started, I had to do something, and people were needing masks. I had some material, and I put it out on Facebook that I was making masks, and that I was selling for \$5 and I was going to donate all the proceeds to AEF," Doege said. "Especially now with COVID with so many people losing their jobs, I knew [the AEF] would get bombarded and need help. Then with hurricane season ... it's just something I knew was really needed."

Doege received widespread support from her unit and from ALA members throughout the state.

"I had some people say, 'Well, I have some extra material; let me donate that,' Then some people, when they came and got their masks, said, 'Here's an extra \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, or \$50," Doege said. "Through the ALA, I have met several people and friends on Facebook who saw my post and asked, 'Would you mail us some?' and I said, 'I will if you pay the postage."

Upon donating, Doege did not give credit to herself, but to all the people who supported and purchased masks from her.

"The money didn't come out of my pocket. A very small portion of it did. They knew it was a group effort, but they all knew the money I was collecting would go to AEF," she said.





Educating Youth While Promoting Patriotism through Art

Dayna Beyer is always looking for new ways to spread patriotism. The Ohio department historian and member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 535 taught a "sip-and-paint" class as a fun educational activity for youth in the community.

"A lot of people were shut in due to the pandemic; the post was closed down for a little bit, and a lot of veterans couldn't go out of their homes, so we wanted to lift up their spirits," said Beyer.

Located a block away from the post home in Bellville, Love Our Heroes is a thrift store and coffee shop where all profits are donated back to veterans. It was closed because of COVID, making it the perfect opportunity to host a socially distant paint class with limited seating.

"We had 6-year-olds through 12-yearolds attend," said Beyer. "The painting theme was Valentines, but the first thing they were to do was paint a rustic American flag, and the American flag

paintings were then presented to veterans in the community."

Continuing the ALA's mission, Beyer had students honor veterans by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a Q&A about the history of the flag, its meaning, and symbolism.

"We are a very patriotic community, and we are really proud of the veterans we have," said Beyer. "I think it's up to us to get out there and take the initiative to help educate the kids ... because who else would do it?"

After finding a poppy sip-and-paint idea in the ALA Poppy Facebook group, Beyer decided to incorporate the American flag instead to help spread patriotism during a time that needs it the most. There were easy step-by-step instructions to follow on how to host a painting class.

"It was good interaction for the kids, and it wasn't just a playtime thing," Beyer said. "There was a purpose behind it, and the feedback we got was very positive."



ALA Foundation Grant Brings Together a Diverse Community of Indigenous Peoples

A cultural divide has long affected the city of Salamanca, N.Y., which is located on the Seneca Nation of Indians Allegany Territory.

"We are a blended community, both native and non-native. As a community, we have struggled to find positive meaning and messaging amongst our residents," said Sandra Brundage, City of Salamanca Youth Bureau Director/Grant Administration.

To bridge the gap, members of the community and the local American Legion Auxiliary unit sought to honor veterans through the purchasing of Hometown Heroes banners. The banners would be available for citizens to purchase to feature their loved ones and placed throughout the downtown area for residents to view.

Members of Auxiliary Unit 535 applied for a Mission in Action grant from the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to offset the cost of the banners. With the promise to use Auxiliary branding on each banner, they were granted \$4,000 to cover a portion of each banner sold.

"Veterans from all conflicts have been represented," Brundage said. "We have veterans who are still missing in action, some with Bronze Stars, and some

with Purple Hearts all on display. The Seneca Nation of Indians has 17 veterans represented."

Many participants were brought to tears when they saw their loved ones honored in this way. In addition to celebrating veterans, the project brought forth the generosity of the community. The banners were hung by an entirely volunteer labor force, including elected officials, school personnel, and the Auxiliary members.

"The banners personify Salamanca Pride — just another way to show how proud we are of our little town," said Michael Smith, Mayor of the City of Salamanca.

"This project has been unifying, validating to our veterans, and has brought a sense of pride back to our community," Brundage said.

"Thank you so much for funding this project — it has been such a blessing to our city."

If you would like to apply for a Mission in Action grant from the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to benefit your community and brand your Auxiliary unit projects, you can get started today at www.ALAFoundation.org/grants.





National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Reaches Milestone Year

A veteran stands next to his artwork, explaining the details of what led him to create the piece. Nearby, another veteran shares an excerpt from her creative writing story, detailing how the arts have helped her overcome her PTSD. Soon after, the stage lights are dimmed as the next performer readies himself. He begins to strum his guitar, a soft melody pulsating out over the auditorium audience.

Welcome to what the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) is all about — the therapeutic healing power of the arts. 2020 marked the 40th anniversary of the event and the ALA's 20th anniversary as a co-presenter. The event brings together creative veterans throughout the country who made it to the national level after competing at local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

The history of the Festival is long and rich, leaving a positive influence on hundreds of veterans over the years who have benefited from the arts. The event is co-presented by The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary.

"You can tell just by talking to them how much enjoyment and satisfaction they are getting from doing their work," said ALA Past National President Kristine West, who helped get the Auxiliary involved with NVCAF back in 2000.

The ALA has had a positive impact on this Festival for 20 years and counting, making our involvement in the event key to our nation's heroes, their health, and well-being.

"I am looking forward to the future of the NVCAF while feeling grateful and appreciative of the past," said NVCAF Director Amy Kimbler. "Our team is excited to build on experiences and bring new challenges and artist opportunities to veterans."

To learn more about NVCAF and how the American Legion Auxiliary supports the event, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org.







Follow Us on Social Media

We have a presence on most social media channels! Find us by searching @ALAforVeterans.









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www.ALAFoundation.org







The Truth about Planned Giving

It's not as difficult as you think!

Lots of rumors circulate around planned giving, when, in reality, leaving a legacy gift can be easy. Check out the truth behind these misnomers that might be holding you back from making a planned gift to the American Legion Auxiliary or the ALA Foundation:

MYTH: It's only for the wealthy.

FACT: You don't need to be wealthy to have a will or indicate a charitable bequest. No matter the size of any individual donation, collectively, every gift

adds up to help ensure the Auxiliary is here for the generations to come.

MYTH: I must have a will in order to donate.

FACT: There are various ways to donate without a will, including your retirement plan or life insurance policy.

MYTH: It costs way too much money to make a will.

FACT: The average cost for a basic will is \$375 and ensures your assets are distributed according to your wishes.

Start your planned gift by visiting www.ALAforVeterans.org/Planned-Giving or calling (317) 569-4500.

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