

2026-2027 APPROVED DEPARTMENT PLAQUES AND AWARDS

NO UNIT WITH LESS THAN 10 MEMBERS AS A GOAL WILL NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DEPARTMENT AWARDS

AMERICANISM

RICKY'S COUNTRY GIRLS AMERICANSIM PLAQUE – to the Unit submitting the most outstanding participation on promoting the Americanism Program to the schools.

THE DORIS SCHULTZ 'GOD BLESS AMERICA' PLAQUE – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Americanism program.

SERVE AND PROTECT CADET OF THE YEAR PLAQUE – to the outstanding cadet at American Legion Police School. The plaque and a picture of the cadet will be presented at the Youth Police School and reported during the Americanism report at Department Convention.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the Runner-up of the Ricky's Country Girls Americanism Plaque.

\$10 the Runner-Up of the Doris Schultz "God Bless America" Plaque.

\$10 to the most Americanism essays turned into a Unit as reported to the Chairman

\$10 to the Best Star Spangled Banner Kids promotion

Certificates to any Unit promoting Star Spangled Kids

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ILLINI GIRLS STATE

Unit raffle drawing for one Unit/Post to receive a \$400 registration refund if the completed application and check for the attending citizen arrive in the Department Office no later than April 1, 2027.

Unit raffle drawing for one Unit/Post to receive a \$400 registration refund if the completed application and check for the attending citizen arrive in the Department Office no later than May 1, 2027.

Units will be notified by letter following the raffle drawings.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the Unit sponsoring the most citizens in 2027. All citizens must attend the full ALA IGS session to qualify for this award. If more than one unit qualifies, a drawing will be held.

\$10 to the Unit who sponsors a citizen for the 2027 ALA IGS session in which they have NOT sponsored a citizen in the last three (3) years. If more than one unit qualifies, a drawing will be held.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

ARLENE'S REBUILDERS PLAQUE – to the District with the highest contribution to the fund by June 1st. This total does NOT include Unit donations.

Personal Awards:

\$10 To the Unit with the highest contribution by June 1.

\$10 To the Division with the highest contribution by June 1.

CHAPLAIN

PATTI'S CRAFTERS PLAQUE – for the best Unit Book of Prayers.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the Runner-up of the Patti's Crafters Plaque

\$10 for the First Prayer received for President Linda's Prayer Book.

\$10 to the Best Division Book of Prayers

\$10 to the Best District Book of Prayers

CHILDREN and YOUTH

BEULAH M. UNFER PLAQUE –Fueling the Future Powering the Fun. The best Unit that incorporates as many of the Children and Youth Program into the year. Please submit 200 to 500 words by May 1st on what you did to make this happen and capture the moments with pictures not attached in the report, but separate.

MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR – From each of 7 branches, one will be recognized and awarded at the State Fair Convention held in July. One from each branch plus Reserves/National Guard. Nominated from you Unit that most represents a parent either serving or has served. Forms of requirement will be sent out to recognize in the Fall Packet. These spotlight these unique young youth ages 13-18 that demonstrate excellence in character, community service, leadership and resilience. Nomination from unit and all papers required submitted by Aprils 1st to Sue Johnson. Blue/Folder and citation.

Personal Awards:

\$10 for the Unit/District that purchases and distributes the most books to school or public Libraries about the military children. \$5 for second place.

\$10 for the Unit/District who raises the most money to be divided between Children Well Being Foundation and designated Children and Youth “Purple Up” events and Activities honoring our Military kids and non- military kids bringing them together in a fair mission of activities and events. \$5 for second place.

“Special Olympics Summer Games” - \$10 for the Unit/District who passes the most of your Midway prizes to our Special Olympic Heroes. To be handed out by AL Riders and ALA President on Sat. Summer Olympic Games. \$5 for second place.

\$10 Make a life change as you jump on the Farris wheel for a Military Child. Involve the community by doing a fundraiser that is fun. Suggestions – run, walk and roll- a-thon, bake sell, craft sell. Need more just ask! \$5 for second place

\$10 The most awards submitted and presented by your unit for their positive actions of our children and youth for: Good Deeds and Youth Hero Awards. A paragraph and Pics for each nomination. \$5 for second place

\$10 The unit/district that donates the most food products on the list for 2 of our sponsored State Special Olympic Games- Tennis August 15th and 16th 2026, June 2027 TBA. \$5 for second place

\$10 To the Unit that can prove and get pictures of as many members or community supporting “Purple Up Day” April 15th sent to me within 2 days by email or 2 weeks by mail. \$5 for send place.

\$10.00 and Certificate of Appreciaton, for the Unit that gives the most donations to the Children and Youth Christmas Gift Program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

PAT’S SOLE SISTERS’ PLAQUE – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Community Service Program. (Judged from all award application forms received).

SR. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD - \$25.00 and a certificate to the senior member who volunteers the most in service to their community.

JR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD - \$25.00 and a certificate to the junior member who volunteers the most in service to their community

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the runner up to the Pat’s Sole Sisters Plaque.

\$10 to the Unit with the most creative way to donate or contribute to the local fire and police department.

\$10 to the Unit reporting the most blood donations

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Personal Awards

\$10 to the District with the highest percentage of Unit Constitution and Bylaws updated by June 1, 2027.

EDUCATION

RUBY'S CANTEEN DANCERS PLAQUE – to the Unit with best overall participation in the Education Program.

JANET'S HUGGIE BEARS PLAQUE – Recognition for the largest donation from a single source to the Education Fund by May 15th.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the Unit with the most creative fundraiser for the Education Fund.

Certificate of Appreciation to all Units contributing a full scholarship of \$1000 or more including memorials.

GOLD STAR

STARR'S HEARTWARMERS GOLD STAR MEMBER OF THE YEAR – to the selected Gold Star Member of the Year.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to be given to the Unit chairman submitting the best report

\$10 Award to be given to the person submitting the best Gold Star Poem

HISTORIAN

PRO-BOWLERS PLAQUE – for the best Unit History.

RAMONA'S INDIANS PLAQUE – for the best District History.

BASKETBALL SHOOTERS PLAQUE - for the best Division History.

Awarded at Junior Conference

IRENE LOFTON'S EAGLETES PLAQUE – for the best Unit Junior History

DOT'S APPLE DUMPLING GANG PLAQUE--for the best District Junior History.

Personal awards:

\$10 and a Certificate to the runner up of the Pro Bowlers Plaque.

\$10 and a Certificate to the runner up of the Ramona's Indians Plaque.

\$10 and a Certificate to the runner up of the Basketball Shooters Plaque.

Honoring the Past, Healing the Future and Rooted in Tradition

\$10 Write the history showing the events that your unit does for Veteran Assistance and Rehabilitation during the year. Take pictures! \$5 second place

Guard for Family Fun

\$10 Write the history showing the events that your unit does for National Security during the year. Take pictures! \$5 second place

Launching Big Dreams, Spinning Big Rides, Code Fun Zone

\$10 Write the history showing the events that your unit does for Children and Youth during the year. Take pictures! \$5 second place

Land of the Free, Home of the Fair

\$10 Write the history showing the events that your unit does for Americanism during the year. Take pictures! \$5 second place

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

DEB'S WILD ONES PLAQUE – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Junior Activities Program.

Personal Awards:

\$5 to the Unit bringing the most participants to JR/SONS to National Junior Meeting in Springfield IL.

\$5 to the Unit describing the most creative ideas for assisting Juniors with the Patch Program.

\$5 Runner up to the Deb's Wild Ones Plaque

LEADERSHIP

DIANA'S HATS OFF TO YOU PLAQUE – to the Unit Member of the Year.

Use the Unit Member of the Year Award form. Must be an active member of her Unit.

Due May 1, 2026. To a senior member who is not currently, nor have been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President. Look for accomplishments and activities they involve themselves in that helps impact the American Legion Family, and the community through-out the year.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the Most outstanding District Leadership Program

\$10 to the Unit with the most completed ALA Academy courses as reported on the Reported Form

LEGISLATIVE

ANGIE'S SUPERHEROES LEGISLATIVE PLAQUE – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Legislative Program.

Personal Awards:

\$10 and a certificate to the runner up of Angie's Superheroes Plaque

\$10 and a certificate to the Unit with the Most Members receiving replies from their legislators, both National, State, and Local as reported to this chairman.

MUSIC

MARY'S FLEURETTES PLAQUE – to the District Chairman for the best overall participation in the Music Program.

Personal Awards:

\$5 to the runner up of the Mary's Fleurettes Plaque

\$5 award to the Senior member who submitted the best Parody of a patriotic song based on the Dept President's theme, written or video.

\$5 award for the Best Unit, District or Division participation in the music program.

\$5 to the Best Division, District, and Unit with the best video parody.

Music Awards Presented at Junior Conference

Parody (First Place) ages 1-12.

\$10.00 to the Junior member for best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 15th, 2027

Parody (First Place) ages 13-17.

\$10.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 15, 2027

Parody (Second Place) ages 1-12.

\$8.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 15, 2027

Parody (Second Place) ages 13-17.

\$8.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 15, 2027

Parody (Third Place) ages 1-12.

\$5.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 1, 2026

Parody (Third Place) ages 13-17.

\$5.00 to the Junior member for the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme written or video. To Department Chairman by March 1, 2026

NATIONAL SECURITY

FIREHOUSE CREW NATIONAL SECURITY PLAQUE – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the National Security program.

A plaque for each winning service member of the year – one per branch of service.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the Runner-up of the Firehouse Crew National Security plaque.

\$10 to the Unit with the Best CERT program report.

\$10 to the Unit that donates the most to the USO

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

MARION'S BALLOONITICS PLAQUE – to the Unit for best overall participation in the Past

Presidents Parley Program.

PAM'S TV LANDERS PLAQUE – to the District with highest contribution to the Nurses Scholarship Fund by June 1st. Does not include Unit donations.

JILL'S BELIEVE PLAQUE – to a past president (past president from any level) of the American Legion Auxiliary who is continuing to be a leader and mentor to members of the American Legion Auxiliary. These members who excel at encouraging and mentoring other members of the ALA on a regular and ongoing basis deserve to be recognized. Criteria will be in the Fall Packet. The Mentor of the year will also sit at the lower head table during the Department's Gold Star/PPP banquet.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the runner up of the Marion's Balloonitics Plaque.

\$10 or a gift to the District Unit for the most unique way to raise funds for the nurse's scholarship program as provided by a written report

\$10 or a gift to the Unit raising the most funds for the nurses' scholarship fund

\$10 or a gift to the Unit with the most unique way to honor female Veterans and active-duty service women

PHOTO BOOK

Personal Awards:

\$10 and Certificate – Grand Champion Grin Award - To the Unit who submits the best picture of President Linda's Winning Smile!

\$10 and Certificate- Blue Ribbon Picture Collector Award - To the Unit who submits the most pictures of President Linda in action at events/activities with the American Legion Family.

POPPY

MARSHA'S ATHLETES PLAQUE – to the Unit with the best overall participation in the Poppy program.

JUDY'S CIRCUS PERFORMERS POPPY AWARD – for the most new and innovative way or idea of raising funds for the Poppy Program.

POPPY CONTESTS (Senior and Junior): Poppy Corsage, Poppy Floral Table Arrangement, Poppy Holiday Table Arrangement, Poppy Tray Favors, Poppy Hat, Poppy Apparel, Poppy Wall Hanging Non-Holiday, Poppy Holiday Hanging Wreath, Poppy Poem

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the runner up of the Marsha's Athletes plaque

\$10 to the runner up of the Judy's Circus Performers Plaque.

Awarded at Junior Conference:

LITTLE MISS POPPY AWARD - \$50, Sash and Tiara.

MISS POPPY AWARD - \$50, Sash and Tiara.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

BURN'S REEL STARS PLAQUE – for the best Unit Press Book or Social Media account submitted.

JULIA'S MUSICIANS PLAQUE – for the best District Press Book or Social Media account submitted.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the runner up of the Burn's Reel Stars Plaque.

\$10 to the runner up of the Julia's Musicians Plaque.

Awarded at Junior Conference.

\$10.00 First Place for the most outstanding Media Book or Social Media account by Juniors (Class I and II).

\$8.00 Second Place for the most outstanding Media Book or Social Media account by Juniors (Class I and II).

\$5.00 Third Place for the most outstanding Media Book or Social Media account by Juniors (Class I and II).

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

TERI'S FIRECRACKERS PLAQUE – to the Unit for best overall participation in the VA&R Program submitted in narrative form.

CAROLLEE'S COOKIES PLAQUE – to the District with the best overall participation in the VA&R Program submitted in narrative form.

Personal Awards:

\$10 to the runner up of the Teri's Firecrackers Plaque

\$10 to the runner up of the Carollee's Cookies Plaque

\$10 to the Unit with the most donations to the Creative Arts Festival.

SERVICE TO VETERANS/HOSPITAL SERVICES

\$25.00 to **VAVS Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours, **excluding Reps/Deps.**

\$25.00 to **VAVS Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours, **for Reps/Deps.**

\$25.00 to the **"Service to Veterans" Junior Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours.

\$25.00 to the **"Service to Veterans" Senior Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours.

\$25 to **IL Veterans Home Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours, **excluding Reps/Deps.**

\$25 to **IL Veterans Home Volunteer** serving the greatest number of hours, **for Reps/Deps.**

HOLIDAY GIFTS - NONE

2026-2027 Department of Illinois Membership Awards

KATHY'S KITTENS THE CATS MEOW PLAQUE – to the Unit with the highest percent of membership by July 1 (10-150 members)

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE – to the Unit with the highest percent of membership by July 1 (151 and over members)

SUE CC'S TWO TIMERS PLAQUE – to the Unit with the highest numerical gain in membership by July 1 (10-150 members)

JO'S STARLIGHTERS PLAQUE – to the unit with the highest numerical gain in membership by July 1 (151 and over members)

DOUBLE D BOOT KICKERS PLAQUE – to the District for the highest percent of membership by July 1. Vice President gets citation in a blue folder. (Districts up to 900 members).

DEPARTMENT AWARD PLAQUE – to the District for the highest percent of membership by July 1. Vice President gets a citation in a blue folder. (Districts 901 and more members).

SHARON'S HALOS PLAQUE – the Division for the highest percent of membership by July 1. Vice President gets a citation in a blue folder.

PAT'S KNIGHTS PLAQUE – to the Unit for the highest numerical gain in Junior membership by July 1.

FAMILY CARAVAN (January 14-23, 2027) – the Unit that brings the most membership at each stop will receive an award.

LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS – to the Division and 2 Districts (1-900, 901+) with the highest percent in membership on January 27, 2027 (President and Vice President). Winners will receive a jacket and a breakfast ticket **if they are present** for the program on February 10th and the breakfast on February 11th.

PATRIOTIC CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS – to any District President/Vice President and Division President/Vice President that are goal by opening of Patriotic Conference, they will receive 1 free night at the hotel or monetary equivalent if not staying at the hotel because they live in the area. **Must be present to win.**

100% AND 101% MEMBERSHIP AWARD – any 100% Unit by Department Convention gets 2 100% pins with a 2026-2027 Bar and a certificate. The first Division in each category (1-900, 901+) to reach 101%, the President/Vice President will receive \$150.00 each. The first District in each category (1-900, 901+) the President/Vice President will receive \$75.00 each.

Traveling Necklace/Tie Tac Awards and Target Dates

Traveling Awards will move on the following dates. Division Presidents & Vice Presidents with the highest % in membership/District Presidents & Vice Presidents with the highest % in membership in each category (1-900, 901+) in each Division.

- * September 27, 2026 - Blue Ribbon Fair Day (President Linda's Birthday)
- * December 7, 2026 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance
- * March 19, 2027 – Patriotic Conference
- * July 8, 2027 – Department Convention

Membership Target Dates

- * September 27, 2026 – **25%** Linda's Blue Ribbon Fair Day
- * November 4, 2026 – **50%** Veterans' Day at the Fair
- * March 10, 2027 – **85%** Merit Medallion Trophy Day
- * May 24, 2027 - **95%** Illinois Poppy Day
- * June 30, 2027 – **100%** Happy Independence Day
- * July 31, 2027 – **102%** Blue Ribbon Celebration Day