

Historian Program Engagement Plan

2026–2027

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida Historian Program preserves more than records, it preserves the heart of our mission. Under our Department President's theme **#MASH ~ Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes**, we recognize that every project, every volunteer hour, every act of service, and every member's story becomes part of our shared legacy.

As your Department Historian, I have chosen **MASH** to represent *Memories Archived, Shared and Honored*. This theme reflects our commitment to documenting the work of our members, celebrating our accomplishments, and ensuring that the stories of service, patriotism, and dedication are preserved for future generations.

Today is Tomorrow's History! Every photograph, article, program and personal memory tells the story of the American Legion Auxiliary's unwavering support for veterans, active duty military and their families, our children and youth and our communities. Together, we will collect these moments, archive them with care, share them with pride, and honor the legacy they represent.

Historians have the privilege of preserving the rich legacy of the American Legion Auxiliary, an organization that has proudly served veterans, military members, and their families since 1919. By collecting stories, preserving records, and celebrating our history, we ensure that everyone knows **who we are, what we do and why we matter**.

When we preserve our history, we do more than remember the past, we inspire the future! Through **#MASH: Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes and Memories Archived, Shared and Honored**, we ensure that the extraordinary work of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida will continue to educate, inspire, and remind future generations that service is a legacy worth preserving.

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MASH Mission Objectives

M – Memories that Become Our Legacy



Record the meaningful work being accomplished in your communities. Every service project, membership milestone, veteran event, and community partnership contributes to the history of our Department.

Projects & Activities

- **Monday Member Moments** ~ Participate in the *Members Remember* project by sharing stories and memories of our members.
- Document significant milestones, special events, and memorable moments throughout the year.
- Collect photographs, newspaper articles, and written stories that tell your Unit's or District's history.

A – Archive Our Stories



Develop organized methods for preserving historical materials for future generations.

Projects & Activities

- Save newsletters, publications, and meeting programs.
- Maintain digital photo files with names, dates and descriptions.
- Preserve Unit and District scrapbooks and historical records.
- Record annual accomplishments and special recognitions.
- **Time Capsule Project** ~ Create a time capsule celebrating your Unit or District. Include items such as newsletters, photographs, membership information, event programs, challenge coins, memorabilia and letters to future members. Select an opening date that commemorates a significant Auxiliary or Unit milestone.

S – Share Our History



Promote historical awareness by sharing the stories that define the American Legion Auxiliary.

Projects & Activities

- **Fun Fact Friday** ~ Share interesting facts about the American Legion Auxiliary, our Department, or local Unit history.
- Celebrate **Unit Charter Date** anniversaries and recognize years of continuous service.
- Feature historical facts in newsletters, websites and on social media.
- Interview a Female Veteran and share their story during **Women's History Month** in March.

H – Honor Those Who Served



Honor the service and sacrifice of veterans while preserving the legacy of those who have served our organization.

Projects & Activities

- Participate in the **Veterans History Project** ~ Partner with Unit and Junior Historians to preserve firsthand accounts of military service by recording veteran interviews, collecting photographs and military documents and encouraging family participation.
- Participate in the **Members Remember Project** by documenting the stories of charter members, Past Unit and District Presidents, mentors, and members whose service, leadership, and dedication have become part of our Auxiliary's enduring legacy. Remember to email your submission to historian@alaf1.org by May. **See Members Remember additional sheet for suggestions**
- Preserve the stories that ensure future generations understand who we are, what we do and why we matter.
- Engage your Junior Members by partnering with the Junior Activities Chair to promote the History Patch for grades 9-12, encourage Jr Historians to participate in the Veterans History Project and record memories for the Members Remember Project.
<https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Resources/History/How-to-Involve-a-Junior-Member>

Important Dates

Date	Event
Feb 20th	Female Veterans History Project
March	National Women's History Month
April 15	Unit Historian Reports due to District
May 1	District Historian Reports due to Department
June 1	Senior and Junior Department Histories submitted to the National Division Vice President

Historian Awards

Best Senior Written History - For Unit and District

This certificate award will be given for the Best Written Senior History for one Unit in each Grouping and the Best Overall District Written Senior History. Please send these electronically to historian@alaf1.org
Additional requirements are attached.

The Voorhis Award - Best Pictorial History Book for Unit and District

Department Historian Award for Best Pictorial Senior History Book Awarded to the Unit or District Historian that submits the Best Pictorial History Book in the Department of Florida. **See attached for rules. Rules are also listed in the Unit Guide.**

Senior Historian:

- Participation in the [Veterans History Project](#)
- Participation in the Members Remember Project

Junior Historian:

- Participation in the [Veterans History Project](#)
- Assisting Senior members with the Members Remember Project

Department Challenge

"Every Unit Has a Story"

The challenge is on! Let's see if every Auxiliary Unit in Florida can submit at least one historical contribution during the year to either [ALAFL Historian](#) Facebook page or emailed to historian@alafl.org. Ideas include:

- A veteran interview
- A member memory
- Historical photographs
- A Unit timeline
- A special anniversary story
- A community impact project
- A preserved newsletter or publication

Together, these contributions will become part of the Department of Florida's history and preserve the legacy of **Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes** for generations to come.

Closing Message

History is more than a collection of dates and photographs—it is the story of service, compassion, patriotism, and dedication that defines the American Legion Auxiliary.

As we embrace our Department President's theme, **MASH – Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes**, let us remember that every member has a story worth preserving, every veteran has a legacy worth honoring, and every Unit plays an important role in shaping the future by protecting our past.

Today Is Tomorrow's History! Together, let us preserve the legacy of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida ~ one story at a time.

#MASH