



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CHAPLAINS

### **PASSIONATE PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2026**

A Unit, District or Junior Chaplain is one of the most fulfilling offices of any organization. There are many ways you can help your members in good times as well as troubled times. Your caring spirit must be shown to all as you serve in this capacity.

Be prepared to be there for others to repair issues that may arise. Our Department President, Robin Burk's theme this year is "**Passion for Veterans**". We can be passionate in many ways but first let's begin by showing our passion for God and Country! Be ready to reach out and show your passion as we start this amazing year. Chaplains should show their passion through conversations, prayers, and being a good listener as we serve our Veterans, our communities, our Legion Family, and our Children & Youth.

**Here are several ways we can show our passion as Chaplains of the American Legion Auxiliary:**

1. Open and close all meetings with prayer and/or inspirational thoughts. All prayers must be non-denominational. Example of resources; Chaplain's Prayer Book, American Legion Auxiliary National News, Reflections Page, and prayers given to you by others or create your own. Be prepared to offer prayer at any Unit, Post or Community function.
2. Send Get Well, Birthday, Thinking of You, Sympathy and Congratulation cards when appropriate.
3. Include your Juniors in all ceremonies if possible.
4. Staying connected with Gold Star Families and remembering them on holidays.
5. Volunteering at community projects
6. Drape the Charter in the event of the death of a Unit member. (Chaplains Ceremonies Manual).
7. Hold a Memorial Service for deceased members at the end of the year. You may be called upon to hold a Memorial Service for a Unit member, by their family member.

8. Don't be afraid to Be the One. Be prepared to have the tools for families in the event of Veteran Suicide.

9. Send the Deceased Member Form to both District Chaplain and Department Chaplain (form is found on [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org)), then Quick Links, Forms and Resources, Unit Forms, then Deceased Member Form. Do Not wait until the end of year to send names, please send daily or monthly. For the 2025 Memorial Service cutoff for names is June 1, 2025. Names received after that date will be in the following years' service.

10. Promote and participate in the Four Chaplains Service, Flag disposal, and other patriotic ceremonies. For more information re: Four Chaplains or to make a donation go to: <https://fourchaplains.org/>

11. Visit sick members in Veterans Hospitals and Nursing Homes or at their individual homes. Give them a Grace Card or inspirational poem, give a hug if possible and always have a smile. Ask if it is O.K. to say a prayer with them before you leave.

12. Assist with the Initiation Ceremony of new members if your Unit conducts one .

### **AWARDS:**

Compile a Prayer book for your Unit, District or Junior President. If you desire, you may also submit it for the "Mae Nally" Department award presented at Convention. All entries will receive a Certificate. Remember to keep all prayers nondenominational. Please follow all the rules for your Prayer Book which are listed in the Unit Handbook Guide. Prayer Books must reach the Department Chaplain thirty (30) days before Convention, which is May 13, 2026.

Remember to center your prayers and/or devotional thoughts (Vertically and Horizontally) on the page. Include the name of the person submitting the prayer or inspirational thought. Do not forget to list all who submitted prayers in alphabetical order by last name, centered on the page.

### **REPORTING:**

- Unit Chaplain's Year End Report must be to District Chaplain by April 1, 2026.
- District Chaplain's Year End Report must be to Department Chaplain by April 15, 2026.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,

Karen Marks, Department of Florida Chaplain

[chaplain@alafl.org](mailto:chaplain@alafl.org) or call me with questions at 904 903 9552

Fun Fact: Postage stamps are going up to 78 cents each . I purchased forever stamps online for 31 cents each! Online site is "[thecheapstamps.com](http://thecheapstamps.com)"