



Bells in S.E.R.V.I.C.E

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

CHAPLAINS: PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2024

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 bad times. Your caring spirit must be shown to all as you serve in this capacity. Always keep your Bells Ringing, they “welcome deity and dispel evil”.

Our Department President, Dee Bell’s theme this year is; **Bells in S.E.R.V.I.C.E.** Let us begin by giving our Service to God as described in our preamble ‘For God and Country’. Be ready to jump in and give your **SERVICE** to our Veterans, our communities, our Legion Family and our Children & Youth by bringing God to them in various ways.

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. **Be The One** to praise God at all times.
2. Send Get well, Birthday, Thinking of you, Sympathy and Congratulation cards when appropriate.
3. Drape the Charter in the event of the death of a Unit member. (Chaplains Ceremonies Manual).
4. 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.

5. Send the Deceased Member Form to both District Chaplain and Department Chaplain (form is found on 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 2024 Memorial Service cutoff for names is June 1, 2024. Names received after that date will be in the following year's service.**
6. 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/>
7. 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.
8. Assist with the Initiation Ceremony of new members if your Unit conducts one .
9. 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 non-denominational.** 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 15, 2024.** 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.
10. Include your Juniors in all ceremonies if possible.
11. **Unit Chaplain's Year End Report must be to District Chaplain by April 1, 2024.**
12. **District Chaplain's Year End Report must be to Department Chaplain by April 15, 2024.**

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Ruth A. Burgess
Department of FL Chaplain
5023 Bridgeport Dr
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

727-744-3672 Cell
727-723-2822 Home