POPPY PROMISE Bulletin

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FLORIDA

THE POPPY ISN'T A SEASON. It's a Promise.

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November 15, 2026

POPPY PROMISE TEAM CORNER

The greatest gifts aren't always wrapped. Sometimes, they're the ones we give through service.

As we enter the holiday season, our calendars fill with celebrations, gatherings, and opportunities to give back. December is also a beautiful time to remind our communities that **the Poppy Promise continues long after Veterans Day.**

While many of us are preparing for the holidays, let us remember the Veterans who may be spending this season alone, those receiving care in Veterans facilities, and our military families whose loved ones are serving far from home.

Consider collaborating with your fellow Auxiliary program chairpersons, Legion Family, and community partners. A holiday visit, a handwritten card, a thoughtful gift, or simply spending time listening to a Veteran's story can make a lasting difference.

As you close out the calendar year, take pride in what your Unit has accomplished, document your impact, and begin thinking about the opportunities ahead.

DECEMBER FOCUS

- Dec. 7 — National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec. 13 — National Guard Birthday
- Dec. 20 — Space Force Birthday
- Holiday visits to Veterans and care facilities
- Supporting military families during the holidays
- Community giving and outreach projects
- Recognizing volunteers and community partners
- Planning winter Poppy Program activities

This December, let remembrance inspire kindness, and let kindness become service.



ACTION LIST

□ Thank Veterans Day volunteers and community partners
□ Document poppy distributions and donations
□ Share photographs and activities with your District
□ Plan holiday outreach to Veterans
□ Invite Juniors to make cards for Veterans
□ Share a poppy remembrance message during December
□ Begin contacting schools about the Poppy Poster Contest
□ Review your Unit's Poppy Program goals for the new year







MARKETING CORNER

Keep the Poppy Visible During the Holidays

Holiday events are wonderful opportunities to introduce new people to the Poppy Program.

✓ Include a poppy message in your holiday outreach.

✓ Display a poppy at your event or donation table

✓ Share how poppy donations support Veterans, military, and their families.

Try this idea: Create a Poppy Remembrance Tree at your Post home. Invite members to place a red poppy or remembrance card on the tree in honor of a Veteran.



The Poppy Isn't a Season. It's a Promise.

BRANDING TIP

Keep Your Messaging Consistent—Even for the Holidays.

As you share holiday photos and events, keep the Poppy Program visible in your messaging and images.

- Use your Poppy Program graphics and colors
- Show members wearing their poppies.
- Include a short reminder of the poppy's meaning.
- Add **Remember • Honor • Inspire • Serve** to your posts.



SHARED WITH PURPOSE

Carrying It Forward: Betty Gann and Unit 989

A family legacy of service, discovered through history

Sometimes, the most meaningful family stories are the ones we discover generations later. Before Dawne Gann and her sisters joined American Legion Auxiliary Unit 316 in Atlantic Beach, their grandmother, Mary Elizabeth “Betty” Gann, had already walked a similar path. The family recently discovered her Auxiliary service through old newspaper clippings from The Daily Calumet.

Betty was an active member of the 124th Field Artillery Auxiliary Unit No. 989 in southeast Chicago and was elected Unit President in May 1955. Her husband, Del, a World War II Veteran who served with the 36th Infantry Division in Italy, was also active in the American Legion.

Much of Betty's service centered around the Post kitchen. She helped organize fundraisers supporting child welfare, disabled Veterans, and Veterans receiving care in Illinois hospitals. Seventy years later, that spirit of service lives on.

In September, Dawne, her sister Heather, and Dawne's fiancé Aaron, a submarine Veteran, began preparing Taco Tuesday dinners at Post 316 for Veterans, Legion members, and their community. Dawne also serves on the Auxiliary Unit's 2026–2027 Executive Committee.

What makes this story so special is that they didn't know they were following in Betty's footsteps.

Today, they proudly continue her legacy, hoping to inspire their own children and grandchildren to serve.

From one Post kitchen to another, generations apart, the mission remains the same: serving Veterans, strengthening families, and building community.

Thank you to Dawne Gann for sharing this beautiful reminder that service is a legacy worth passing on.





SHARED WITH PURPOSE

Legion Post Auxiliary Fetes District Leader

The 124th Field Artillery Unit No. 989, American Legion Auxiliary at its regular meeting, held at post headquarters, 3010 E. 79th st., honored Third District Director, Mrs. Thomas Prendergast, who is a member of the 124th F.A. Mrs. Prendergast is also a past president of the 124th Field Artillery unit.

The members of 124th Field Artillery were very happy to have Mrs. Marie Appel of the 23rd District as their guest. Refreshments

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morally, and physically.

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were served after the meeting.

Also at this meeting the Unit elected its 1955-1956 staff of officers.

The newly elected president is Mrs. Delmar Gann, 8241 S. Clyde av., who appointed Mrs. Raymond J. Muselman, 2839 E. 80th st., as secretary. The first vice-president is Mrs. Edwin Johnson, 8621 S. Constance av.; second vice president is Mrs. Thomas J. Diggins; treasurer is Mrs. Russell Erickson; historian is Mrs. Peg Williamson, 7338 S. Jeffery av.; chaplain is Mrs. Geraldine Enrietto, 7946 Muskegon av., and Sergeant-at-Arms is Mrs. Pat Johnson, 2660 E. 77th st.

Mrs. Betty Gann will appoint color-bearers and committee chairmen at a later date. The joint installation of the 124th Field Artillery Post and Auxiliary Unit officers will take place in November.

Mrs. Delmar Gann is a native of southeast Chicago. Besides being a very active auxiliary member, Mrs. Gann has an interesting hobby by breeding parakeets. Her husband, Delmar Gann, is chaplain of Al R. Enholm Post No. 853 and is a salesman for Salada Tea.

SHARED WITH PURPOSE

Smorgasbord Will Swell Service Fund

The 124th Field Artillery, Unit No. 989, The American Legion auxiliary, will hold a "Sunday Smorgasbord" in its post headquarters, 3010 E. 79th st., on Sunday, Apr. 8, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The Unit President, Mrs. Ronald Hoover, 2836 E. 78th st., has appointed Mrs. Delmar Gann, 8241 Clyde av., as general chairman. Mrs. Gann will be assisted by Mrs. Paul Enrietto, 7946 Muskegon av., and Mrs. Ray Muselman, 2839 E. 80th st., ticket committee members.

Also assisting are Mrs. Edwin Johnson, 8621 Constance av., and Mrs. Harold Johnson, 2660 E. 77th st., Salads, and Mrs. Thomas Diggins, 9057 Muskegon av., desserts.

Many specialties and old family recipes will be used in the homemade dishes. There will be turkey, ham, meat loaf, shrimp, Swedish meat-balls, Polish sausage, and many other items to whet an epicurean's appetite.

The public is invited. The proceeds of this "Sunday Smorgasbord" will benefit the "Service Fund," used exclusively in the Unit's extensive child welfare and rehabilitation of disabled veterans' programs. This ways and means project is the first undertaken by the 124th FA Unit so far this year.

Mrs. Hoover and Mrs. Gann as well as the entire membership of the 124th F. A. Unit most cordially invite friends and neighbors to attend.

124th FA Legion Unit Plans Fete For Child Welfare

The 124th Field Artillery Unit No. 989 of the American Legion auxiliary is sponsoring a games party Wednesday evening, May 22, at the Al R. Enholm Memorial home, 2100 E. 83rd st.

Mrs. Edwin Johnson, 8621 Constance av., president of the unit, announces festivities will begin at 8 p.m. Mrs. Johnson has appointed the unit's treasurer, Mrs. Ray Muselman, 2839 E. 80th st., as general chairman of this annual ways and means project.

The committee appointed to assist Mrs. Muselman includes Mrs. Dagny Lapp, 1015 E. 72nd st.; Mrs. Thomas Diggins, co-chairman in charge of tickets; Mrs. Palmer Gunderson, 1011 E. 72nd st., and Mrs. Edith Carlson, 7124 Drexel av., refreshments; Mrs. Delmar Gann, 8241 S. Clyde, door prizes.

Other committee members are Mrs. Zella Queen, 7128 Ridgeland av.; Mrs. Michael Klemenko, 1148 E. 72nd st.; and Mrs. Harold Williamson, 2817 E. 80th st.

Proceeds of the party will supplement the funds used by the unit in its contributions toward the advancement of the child welfare program and the rehabilitation of veterans in the 32 hospitals in Illinois which are serviced by the American Legion auxiliary.

Seven grants, totalling more than $50,000 have been made possible by contributions to the National Child Welfare Foundation from auxiliary units such as the 124th Field Artillery.

POPPY PROMISE CHALLENGE

Give the Gift of Remembrance

This December, honor a Veteran through one meaningful act of kindness.

Visit a Veteran, send a handwritten card, share a story, or invite someone to join you in serving others.

Encourage members to share their acts of kindness using **#PoppyPromise.**

One small act.
One lasting reminder.
Our promise continues.



Take note:

National has changed "Litle Miss Poppy" to Poppy Ambassador. (website updated on Oct. 7, 2026)

YOUR STORY *Could Be Next!*

Are you wearing your poppy with purpose? Is your Unit doing something others could learn from?

Share your photos and story with **Poppy@alafl.org**.

