

South Dakota COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

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FOCUS Spotlight

Family — whether it is our own families or our Legion family — is at the heart of who we are. People matter. They support one another, lift each other up, and form the foundation of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission. Family gives us strength, purpose, and connection. Without it, where would we be?

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Make A Difference Day**
October 24, 2026
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
January 18, 2027
- **American Legion Family Day**
April 30, 2026



Honoring Our First Responders

September 11, 2026 marks the 25th anniversary of a day that forever changed the face of America. A quarter century later, the memory of that morning still echoes across our nation — not only in the sorrow we felt, but in the extraordinary unity that followed. In the midst of unimaginable tragedy, Americans from every walk of life stood shoulder to shoulder, proving that courage and compassion are stronger than fear.

Over time, 9/11 has become more than a day of remembrance. It has become a day of honor — a day dedicated to the men and women who serve our communities with unwavering commitment. These are the individuals who rarely seek recognition, yet embody courage, bravery, and dedication every single day. They sacrifice time with their families, place themselves in harm's way, and choose, again and again, to put the needs of others before their own. As we reflect on this 25-year milestone, we honor not only the heroes of that day, but all who continue to protect, serve, and strengthen our communities. Their service is a living reminder of the resilience and unity that define the American spirit.

Message from the Chairman

I am very proud to say that I am in my second year of being the Department Community Service Chair. It has been a privilege to have you all on this journey with me. If you remember nothing else, please remember that service comes in all shapes and forms and there is no service too small when it comes to our communities and making them better places.



COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEAS

- FOOD DRIVES FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES
- DELIVER SENIOR MEALS/ROCS/MEALS ON WHEELS
- HOST A SUPPLY DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS/VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- HOST A JOB SEEKING EVENT - RESUME WRITING/INTERVIEW PREP/JOB APPS
- COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT
- PARK CLEAN-UPS
- TREE PLANTING
- TECH HELP FOR SMARTPHONES/COMPUTERS/INTERNET
- YOUTH SPORTS COACHING
- COLLECT CHILDRENS BOOK/BOOK DRIVES FOR LOCAL CLASSROOMS OR NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES
- PATRIOTIC PAINTING PARTY
- HOST A BREAKFAST HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS
- THANK YOU NOTES TO FIRST RESPONDERS
- BAKED GOODS/CATERED MEALS TO LOCAL FIRE STATIONS/POLICE AMBULANCE CREWS
- YARD WORK FOR SENIORS/ELDERLY



HOWEVER INDIVIDUALLY OR YOUR UNIT CHOOSES TO HONOR, SERVE AND REMEMBER 9/11, NO SERVICE IS TOO BIG OR SMALL WHEN IT COMES TO GIVING BACK TO THOSE WHO GIVE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO TAKE PICTURES AND DOCUMENT THE WONDERFUL ACTIVITIES THAT YOU DO. SEND THEM TO YOUR LOCAL PAPERS AND EMAIL THEM TO ME (THEN I CAN SEND THEM INTO THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER), EVERY UNIT DESERVES RECOGNITION FOR THEIR WONDERFUL WORK!