



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

National Chaplain

National Chaplain ~ Cherita Potter

National Chaplain

Plan of Work: National Chaplain

Mission Statement: The National Chaplain will express, by word and action, our founding principal of service to God and Country. She will encourage all departments to celebrate diversity among people and faiths. She will provide spiritual and emotional guidance when needed or requested always lending dignity and respect to the occasion.

National Chaplain

Cherita Potter
Department of Oregon

National Officer Coordinator

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National Chaplain

National Chaplain - Outline

- I. National Chaplain
- II. Supporting American Legion Programs
 - a. National Chaplain of The American Legion
- III. Recognized Collaborative Programs and Activities
 - a. National Chaplain of The American Legion
- IV. Chaplain Resources
- V. Annual Report Form

National Chaplain

I. National Chaplain

A. Goal: Increase awareness of Chaplain duties.

Tactics:

1. Prepare timely bulletins throughout the year to be sent to Unit and District Chaplains.
2. Forward information on reference materials containing examples of prayers for upcoming events where prayer is expected. For example, pages 164-175 of the *Unit Handbook*.
3. Plan a workshop at the fall DEC, include the Legion and Junior Auxiliary members.
4. Plan and promote services on the spiritual dates of The American Legion and Auxiliary, i.e. Four Chaplains Sunday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and National Day of Prayer. Encourage joint ceremonies.

B. Goal: Improve communication with Unit and District Chaplains to inspire and motivate.

Tactics:

1. Develop a prayer chain by e-mail and/or telephone.
2. Plan a prayer exchange. Bring a prayer, collect a prayer and build your pocket of prayers so you will be prepared when called upon to give prayer.
3. Promote the use of grace cards in Units and in nursing homes.
4. Encourage the making of poppy wreaths to be placed in local churches.

C. Goal: Prepare a memorable President's Prayer Book.

Tactics:

1. Ask members to submit their favorite prayers, poems, inspirational thoughts and reflections.
2. Ask Legion members and Junior Auxiliary members to submit prayers, poems and reflections.
3. Be sure to ask for favorite prayers, poems and inspirational thoughts to send in for the National President's Prayer Book.
4. Incorporate the National President's theme whenever possible.

D. Goal: Share Department, District, and Unit Chaplain experiences and successes.

Tactics:

1. Encourage Department, District, and Unit Chaplains to send information regarding their year no later than January 15, 2009 so that it can be shared at Awareness Assembly

II. Supporting American Legion Programs

A. National Chaplain of The American Legion

Goal: Support The American Legion's efforts in fulfilling the spiritual needs of veterans and their families.

Tactics:

1. Communicate with the Legion's National Chaplain on a regular basis to obtain updates on their initiatives.

National Chaplain

III. Recognized Collaborative Programs and Activities

A. National Chaplain of The American Legion

Goal: Build a working relationship with my Legion counterpart.

Tactics:

1. Communicate with the Legion's National Chaplain on a regular basis to encourage the sharing of ideas and information.

IV. Chaplain Resources

A. Auxiliary

1. *Unit Handbook* (355.200)*
2. *Manual of Ceremonies* (355.201)*
3. *Chaplains Prayer Book* (355.111)*
4. *National News* magazine
5. Auxiliary website Chaplain's Corner (www.legion-aux.org)

B. The Legion

1. *The Chaplain's Prayer Manual of The American Legion* (755.111)*
2. *Service To God And Country Handbook for Chaplains* (755.122)*
3. *Grace Cards* (755.110)*
4. *American Legion Magazine***
5. *The Dispatch* newsletter**
6. The Legion website (www.legion.org)

*Available through Emblem Sales online at <http://emblem.legion.org> or by phone at 888-453-4466.

**Contact The American Legion National Headquarters at 317-630-1200 for information on how to obtain a subscription.

National Chaplain

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN ANNUAL REPORT FORM 2008-2009

Please complete and return to Cherita Potter, 34167 Highway 26, Seaside, OR 97138 on or before June 1, 2009.

Department _____

Department Chaplain _____

Home Address _____

1. Dept. Membership _____ Number of Units in Dept. _____ Number of Units Reporting _____

1. Number of deceased members in your Department _____
Senior Members _____ Junior Members _____ Gold Star Mothers _____

2. Did your Department hold Memorial Services? Yes ___ No ___
Did you include your Juniors in the Ceremonies? Yes ___ No ___
Was the Charter draped for deceased members? Yes ___ No ___

3. List the organizations that received Memorial Donations.

Total amount donated \$ _____

4. Did your Department use Grace Cards? Yes ___ No ___ How many? _____

5. Did your Department have Four Chaplains Programs? Yes ___ No ___
Did you include members of the Legion Family? Yes ___ No ___
Donations made to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. _____

6. Did a member from your Department attend the National Chaplains Conference? _____

7. Did you participate with the Legion Family in observing:
Veterans' Day? Yes ___ No ___
Independence Day? Yes ___ No ___
Memorial Day? Yes ___ No ___

8. Did Units prepare Prayer Books for the Unit President? Yes ___ No ___ How many? _____
Did your Department President receive a Prayer Book? Yes ___ No ___
Were prayers sent for the National President's Prayer Book? Yes ___ No ___

9. Did you use Information from the National Chaplain or the Auxiliary Web site Chaplain's corner as a resource for your activities? Yes ___ No ___. If yes please explain

Is there one person in your department you feel deserves special recognition for their efforts this year? If so who and why : _____

10. Suggestions for improving the Chaplain's program. _____