



# American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,  
Military, and their Families*

**To: ALA Red Book contacts**

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: **Weekly Briefing 10-01-2021**

The American Legion Family in Indy is doing our best to keep the local economy robust! The Legion is hosting their Fall Conference with meetings starting this weekend. The Auxiliary has been invited to attend commission meetings and a number of our staff members and some volunteers will be downtown next week, sharing ideas and working together toward common goals. This is a big step forward on Goal 5 of our strategic plan and it's uplifting to get to work with more Legion members.

Last weekend, Tyra Nelson, our DC Director, attended the National Gold Star Mother's 85<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. She was honored to meet Gold Star Mother's National President JoAnn Maitland and General Mark Milley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, United States Army. While at Arlington National Cemetery, Tyra ran into a Blue Star Families member who she had recently met with to discuss an MOU between our organizations to work together on some joint interests—small world! Tyra also met with Women Veterans United and helped recruit 11 new members! I'd say she had a productive weekend!

Here's an interesting factoid: Did you know there are more than twice as many American Legion posts than there are Wal-marts in the United States? There was an article recently in the Wall Street Journal predicting the demise of all Veteran Service Organizations and while our numbers are smaller, that is a direct correlation to the decrease in the number of people signing up for military service. A very similar article was published back in 1971 and here we are, still serving veterans, military, and their families. I've attached both articles and The Legion's response to the most recent article. I guess the moral of the story is don't believe everything you read and keep up the great efforts. 😊

Next week is President Kathy's Homecoming so the briefing may be a day or two later than usual. I'm looking forward to meeting more members and seeing Department Presidents when they arrive for their retreat. We have some great training planned and don't feel left out; we'll be offering this training in a webinar format later this administrative year!

The online Red Book has been updated. All updates for the latest edition of the Red Book will be sent as one file when the hard copies are distributed.