

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry

Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1 MAR 61 and 29 MAR 73 are eligible to receive the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Award.

The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry can be an individual or unit award for bravery in combat. For unit awards the RVN government distinguished between units serving in combat support of the Republic and in civic action support (or both) awarding the RVN Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Unit Citation to combat units and the the RVN Civic Actions Honor Medal, First Class, Unit Citation to logistic units. According to the Department of the Army General Order DA GO 8 1974 the Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm was awarded to Headquarters U. S. Military Assistance Command (MACV) and all its subordinate units during the period 8 FEB 1962 to 28 MAR 1973. All military personnel who were assigned to units serving in-country Vietnam during this period were considered assigned to MACV and its subordinate units, regardless of service or component. Under DA GO 43 1970 the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry was awarded to all military personnel of all branches who served in-country Vietnam between 1 MAR 1961 and 28 MAR 1973 and to U.S. Army Vietnam and its subordinate units for the period 20 JUL 1965 to 28 MAR 1973. Both of these DAGOs should be listed in Army Pamphlet 672-3 which contains all units specifically cited and is the guideline used by NPRC for making corrections to DD-214s.

This is a foreign award that was issued by the Army of South Vietnam. When awarded to U.S. military personnel it was awarded with Silver Star (the equivalent to the US Army Silver Star) or with Bronze Star (equivalent to the US Bronze Star). It is also the equivalent of the French Croix de Guerre. When awarded to units it was always with Gold Palm. As with U.S. unit awards all personnel in the unit during the period of action for which the award is given may wear the award at all times. Individuals not in the unit during the designated period can wear the award only while assigned to the unit. As a foreign decoration the Vietnamese Cross may not be worn until the award is approved by the US Department of State. That approval is then passed to the Department of Army and a General Order for the award is published [i.e. DA GO 43 1970 & DA GO 8 1974]. If you never received a medal, ribbon, or certificate it cannot be reissued by NPRC since this is a foreign award. However, amended discharge papers (DD-215) can be issued if the citation is not listed on your DD-214. If you want to confirm your eligibility you can request an amendment by submitting a Standard Form 180 (SF-180) to the National Personnel Records Command (NPRC). This form can be downloaded at www.fra.org/links, http://members.aol.com/_forvets/htomr.htm, or http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records/standard_form_180.html.

Veterans who cannot access the Internet may call 1-800-FRA-1924 to request the form. Further information is also available from your local VA office.

(Reprinted from RAO Bulletin Update 01/19/2003 by Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret), Director, Retiree Affairs Office & U.S. Embassy, Warden Baguio City, Republic of the Philippines)

American Legion Auxiliary Information

Eligibility

All women who are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary fall into one of the following categories:

(1) The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of members of The American Legion.

(2) The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the eligibility periods listed and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an Honorable Discharge, died after such service.

(3) The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of those who were citizens of the United States and who served during any of the eligibility periods in the Armed Forces of any of the governments who were allies of the United States and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an Honorable Discharge, died after such service.

(4) Women who are eligible for membership in The American Legion in their own right.

This eligibility includes step-relatives.

If you are a female, and have verified direct personal connection with service in one of the categories listed, — you are eligible for membership in American Legion Auxiliary!

WAR ERA ELIGIBILITY DATES

World War I

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918

World War II

December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946

Korean War

June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955

Vietnam War

February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975

Grenada/Lebanon

August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984

Panama

December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990

Persian Gulf War

August 2, 1990 to date of cessation

Purpose

Patriotism is a personal commitment for American Legion Auxiliary members. We place great importance on community involvement and responsible citizenship.

The Auxiliary has conceived and implemented hundreds of programs for veterans, their families, young people and the community at large. Many programs have been expanded and now are commonly accepted institutions within the community and nation. So deeply ingrained are such programs that the subtle guiding hand of the Auxiliary is often not recognized.

Few people realize that:

- The Auxiliary and the Legion are often centers for community and civic activities in mid-America, and provide a focal point for citizens' involvement.
- The Auxiliary raises more than \$18 million every year and reinvests those funds in VA medical centers and community programs.
- Thousands of hours are devoted to crime prevention programs, instructing children, the elderly and the general public on safety, crime prevention and protection within the community.
- Auxiliary volunteers are the backbone of assistance in the 171 VA Medical Centers.

They not only provide diversion and entertainment for patients, but assist the hospital staff in physical and psychological therapy, clerical and many other duties that would otherwise cost American taxpayers millions of dollars.

The Auxiliary deals with issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, missing and abused children, teen suicide and teen pregnancy. Its services touch the lives of all Americans directly or indirectly. More than 20 nationwide programs receive support and financial aid from the American Legion Auxiliary.

Programs

Eighteen million dollars. . . Ten million hours of service. . . that is what American Legion Auxiliary volunteers contribute in just ONE year! Since our organization was founded more than seven decades ago, the Auxiliary has certainly earned its place in the community. And, as the largest patriotic women's service organization in the world, the Auxiliary has proven its worth in hundreds of ways.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

In our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program, more than 100,000 hospital, field and home service volunteers give millions of hours to assist veterans. In addition, they provide funds to purchase essential equipment and supplies in 171 VA medical centers and other veterans' facilities. Our members actively support legislation to improve veterans' benefits. Auxiliary volunteers make and provide holiday gifts and plan parties throughout the year to cheer hospitalized veterans. They furnish transportation, food, clothing, and most important of all, loving care for home-bound veterans. When America's troops were called to the Middle East, Auxiliary members worked to ease the strain on service families at home and fill the gap left by absent parents and spouses by collecting and shipping toiletries and snacks, writing letters and sending postage stamps. We thought of those brave young people as family. And when they returned safely, Auxiliary members shared the nation's joy.

Poppy Program

The Auxiliary's Poppy program for veterans is the oldest, and probably the most well known, of our many programs. Auxiliary volunteers distribute millions of poppies every year in return for donations, large and small. The contributions are used exclusively to assist veterans and their families. The crepe paper poppies are made by hospitalized veterans, thereby providing a small

income, therapy and help to build the veteran's self-esteem. In the community, the little red flowers remind the world that we have not forgotten the sacrifice of our veterans. We proudly wear this beautiful symbol in memory of those who died to preserve the freedom we enjoy.

Children & Youth

The Auxiliary is deeply concerned with America's children and young people. They represent our future. Our programs address child safety, juvenile justice, the problems of missing children, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and teen suicide. Each year, the Auxiliary contributes millions of dollars and volunteer hours to individual projects for children, in addition to the thousands of dollars which are donated to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation to provide grants for various children's programs.

Education

Quality education for all people is very important to our members. The Auxiliary gives approximately \$1 million each year for scholarships which enable young people to continue their education. To eliminate the growing problem of adult illiteracy, Auxiliary members volunteer as tutors to help adults improve their reading skills, find better jobs and become productive members of their community.

Heart of America

We also recognize the importance of an informed, involved citizenry and annually spotlight outstanding local and national educators and media professionals for their significant and important role in our communities.

Community Service

The Auxiliary works to improve the quality of life for all citizens in our communities. Auxiliary members plant trees and flowers, conduct recycling programs, clean up roadways, provide support for women in shelters and provide food, clothing and shelter to those who are less fortunate. Libraries, youth groups and schools also benefit from our members' efforts.

Girls State/Girls Nation

Since the Girls State and Girls Nation programs were established, more than 1 million young women have been given the opportunity to experience the workings of state and federal government. At these sessions, high school juniors learn leadership, patriotism, self-worth and confidence which helps prepare them to take their places as productive and successful members of our society.

Junior Activities

Another Auxiliary youth program, the Junior program, prepares the Auxiliary's young members to carry on with the work of the organization. The Junior program assures the organization's growth and continuity and teaches the fundamentals of leadership and service to our future members at the Unit, District, Department and National levels.

Citizens Flag Alliance

The Citizens Flag Alliance is an apolitical, non-partisan confederation of organizations and individuals who wish to protect the United States flag from public physical desecration. Stressing education along with rallying public support, the Citizens Flag Alliance's goal is to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution making it illegal to publicly desecrate the flag. The Auxiliary is taking part in this effort because they believe the flag is unique among our traditional national emblems and deserves respect, care and protection.

These are just some of the things that the American Legion Auxiliary does for veterans, communities and young people. We welcome every eligible woman to join us. It is your opportunity to share the joy, and the rewards, of doing something good for yourself and your community.