



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA- POPPY PROGRAM
FEBRUARY BULLETIN 2025

Greetings Free Spirits,

Thank you to all who participated in our Poppy Hat Contest at DEC. The entries were phenomenal and I'm glad I didn't have to choose. Thank you to my judges. We'll have another Poppy Hat contest at convention.

Have you visited Flag & Emblems sales website lately? In Fall of 2024, new Poppy items became available! By wearing and using Auxiliary and Poppy branding, it is a great conversation starter on sharing about our wonderful organization and Poppy Program. Over the years, I've met many people who didn't know Poppy Story. A copy can be found on our website. Please use and share with others.

In a past bulletin, I shared how Poppy Funds can be used per the new 2024 Poppy Guide. Our organization also uses Poppy Funds to support mission outreach activities, such as: National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, -Armed Services YMCA food pantry locations, and to Support Honor Flights. At DEC, we witnessed a beautiful presentation about the Honor Flights Program. Below is how Poppy Funds can be used to support the mission of Honor Flights. Hope your Unit can support a Veteran or Guardian on a future Honor Flight trip.

Honor Flights

For the veterans:

- Food and nutrition
- Oxygen
- Wheelchairs
- Medical teams on each flight (one medic per bus — and there are sometimes up to six medics per flight — funds cover the medic's food, identifying apparel, medical supplies, travel expenses, and hotel)
- Wheelchair-accessible buses

For the guardian (companion/caregiver who attends with the veteran)

- Airfare to accompany veteran on the trip
- Food and nutrition
- Hotel accommodations to remain with veteran during the trip
- Guardian training and associated needs to execute necessary tasks — food, room rental, medical training, and identifying articles of clothing
- When required — transportation to the airport with veteran
- When required — hotel for the night before the flight with veteran

Our first Department Poppy Party was a success, and another one has been scheduled. Poppy Making Party on Sunday, February 23rd, 2025 at Lakewood Post 496 in Long Beach from 2:30pm-5pm. All are invited! All skill levels are invited!! Please RSVP with me or PPM Debbie Butler at (213) 200-0477.

We're only 3 months away from National Poppy Day. I hope your units are getting ready!

Blessings,

Gabriella Ramos

Poppy Chairman, Department of California 2024-2025

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