

## **National Security**

**When was the US Coast Guard established and what was it called?** Alexander Hamilton established Revenue Marines 1790, later Revenue Cutter Service 1863, Coast Guard 1915, It was transferred to the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. This occurred after Sept. 11 attacks to centralize national security and border protection to better coordinate maritime safety and counterterrorism efforts.

**Who established the original version of the Purple Heart and when was it established?** George Washington's Badge of Military Merit August 7, 1782 during the Revolutionary War. The modern version "The Purple Heart" was revived February 22, 1932 (The 200th birthday of Washington's birth) by the US War Department.

**During which war did the U.S. military primarily use Navajo Code talkers and which branch did they serve?** Marines and World War 2

**An iconic image was taken in Time Square on V-J Day, When was V-J Day and what does it commemorate?** The photo of the famous kiss between sailor and a nurse was taken on August 14, 1945, the day Imperial Japan surrendered. BUT it was September 2, 1945 when the formal documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri

**How can ALA members help support the "BE THE ONE" initiative?** Members can support the Be the One initiative by educating our communities, promoting mental health resources and encouraging open conversations about mental health. Remember it is OK to not be OK.

**Gold Star Mother's Day is in September, When was it originally founded and why?** It was founded by Grace Seibold whose son, George Seibold, Joined the Canadian Military in 1918, since the US didn't yet have an Air Force or the planes he wanted to fly, in support of the WWI war effort. A decade after his tragic death, Grace and 24 other mothers met in Washington DC on June 4th, 1928 to establish American Gold Star Mother, Inc.

**What is the name of the Navy's elite special operations force?** Navy Seal Team

**How many branches are in the U.S. Armed Forces and can you name them in order of their founding dates?**

National Guard 1636

Army June 1775

Navy October 1775

Marines November 1775

Coast Guard 1790

Air Force 1947

Space Force 2019

**What month is designated Military Family Appreciation Month which goes together with National Family Caregiver Month and Warrior Care Month?** November

**How does an active duty service member vote in an election if they are stationed overseas?** Active duty military service members stationed overseas, along with their eligible family members, are covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act which ensures their right to vote in federal elections. Many state also extend this right to state and local elections. Their ballot can be sent electronically or by mail, so they can make their voice heard no matter where they're serving

**What prominent foundation partners with the ALA to support veteran caregivers?** Elizabeth Dole Foundation

**What activity does the ALA members support weekly by wearing a certain color?** RED Shirt Friday, showing support for all deployed troops

**What is the key theme motto for the ALA National Security Program encouraging members to actively support service members and their families? “Be The One”** This is the national theme and priority strongly tied to the ALA’s National Security Program. It focuses on supporting service members and veterans, destigmatizing mental health struggles and preventing veteran and active duty suicide.

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**What annual award recognizes enlisted active-duty service members and is tied to the ALA National Security Program?** Salute to Servicemembers Award

**When was the Salute to Servicemembers Award established and whom does it honor?** It was established in 2003 It honors one enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) from each branch of service as well as National Guard/Reserve.

**In honor of the US Marines’ Birthday which was Nov. 10, What do the Eagle, Globe and Anchor represent on their emblem?** Eagle-The United States which the Marine Corps is committed to defend. Globe-Represents the worldwide service and readiness to serve especially in the western hemisphere. Anchor-represents the Marine Corps' strong ties to the Navy.

**What are at least three partner organizations that the ALA National Security Program often collaborates with to support military families?** Family Readiness Groups (FRGs), Armed Services YMCA(supports military families), Quilts of Valor Foundation, Gold Star Mothers, American Red Cross, Operation Home Front, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors(TAPS), CERT, care packages, support for military families, Blue Star families

**Can you name three items featured on the Missing Man Table and their significance?** White table cloth-purity of motives to serve, lemon-bitter fate, empty chair-they are missing, red rose-blood shed, inverted glass-inability to toast.

**What resolution, and adopted at which American Legion National Convention mandates a POW/MIA Chair at all official meetings?** Resolution 18 at the 2014 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina

**Name one service the USO provides to military members and their families.** Lounges in Airports, entertainment, care packages, phone/internet access, family support and holiday meals.”

**What does the USO stand for and when were they founded?** The United Service Organization was founded and officially incorporated on February 4, 1941, at the request of President Franklin D. Roosevelt brought together 6 existing organizations to support the U.S. troops during World War II by providing a "home away from home" and morale-boosting service.

**In what year was the National POW/MIA Recognition Day first commemorated?** Congressional resolution and officially commemorated in 1979 after President Jimmy Carter signed a proclamation to honor POW/MIA servicemembers.

**When is POW/MIA day observed?** The third Friday of September.

**Which Federal agency's mission to search for missing military personnel does the ALA raise awareness about?** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is the federal agency responsible for searching and accounting for missing military personnel. The agency accounted for in 2023–158, 2024–172, 2025–231

**Who were the four Chaplains and what tragic event occurred aboard the USAT Dorchester on February 3, 1943?** The four Chaplains, also known as the Immortal Chaplains, were Lt. George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander D. Goode (Jewish Rabbi), Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed), and Lt. John P. Washington (Roman Catholic). The Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine, leading to its sinking resulting in loss of 672 lives. The Chaplains gave up their life jackets to soldiers and united in prayer.

**What is the minimum number of years one must serve in the military to be eligible for retirement with full benefits?**

20 years