

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN - RITA WAGNER

Then shall thou call, and the Lord shall answer: thou shall cry, and He will say, here I am..." Isaiah 58:9

It should be the objective of the chaplain to:

1. Reconnect with the heart of God, the Master of might and promote our founding fathers, desire to create one nation under God.
2. Act as spiritual leader of the organization.

Through bulletins and other means of communication she should:

1. Increase awareness of the actual wording of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States with regard to religious expression.
2. Educate members on awareness of the diversity of all faiths and cultures.
3. Provide and promote emotional and spiritual support to the American Legion Family by sending emails, prayers, cards, etc. to members throughout the administrative year.
4. Recommend educational materials that promote a spirit of unity and love.

The chaplain is responsible for all invocations, benedictions and memorial services.

All prayers and devotional thoughts should be non-denominational.

Some other possible activities for the Chaplain:

1. Report the names of members that are ill and present cards at meeting for all to sign.
2. Send sympathy cards.
3. Visit members and veterans in nursing homes and hospitals.
4. Visit members and veterans who are shut-in at home.
5. Keeping in contact with all Gold Star Members and remembering them during all holidays.
6. Volunteering in community projects.

Every member should help in preparing the Department President's Prayer Book.

Please submit your favorite prayers, poems and devotional thoughts. Ask other American Legion Auxiliary members, Legion members, SALs, and Junior members to send items too.

Send two copies so I can send one for the National Prayer Book.

Be sure to give credit to the individual and the unit on the item.

Send to Rita Wagner, PO Box 346, Elgin, NE 68636

Chaplain Resources: Auxiliary:

Unit Handbook

Manual of Ceremonies

Chaplain's Prayer Book

Auxiliary Convalescent Emblem Cards

Auxiliary Sympathy Emblem Cards

Auxiliary website (www.ALAforVeterans.org)

Chaplain Resources: Legion

Grace Cards (755.110)

The Chaplain's Prayer Manual of the American Legion (755.111)

Service to God and Country Handbook for Chaplains (755.122)

American Legion Magazine

The Dispatch newsletter

The American Legion website (www.legion.org)

Many of these materials are available from National Emblem sales, The American Legion, PO Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206; 888-453-4466; or <http://emblem.legion.org>.

It is my wish that every Unit prepare a Prayer Book for judging at the District Convention. The Unit Chaplain does not make the Unit Prayer Book alone. It is a collection of prayers, devotional thoughts and poems that mean something special to the Unit members. The Chaplain and members may write their own prayers or devotional thoughts for the book if they wish. All members should be asked to give the Unit Chaplain something for the Prayer

Book.

(District Presidents will choose judges and inform you on where to send your completed Prayer Book entry.)

GUIDELINES FOR SENIOR PRAYER BOOKS

- I Paper.....5 points
Use standard size typing paper or computer paper – 8.5 x 11 inches. Erasable paper will be accepted.
- II Cover.....5 points
May be hard or theme style, purchased at any school supply center. Cover decoration is not necessary.
- III Contents.....60 points
- A. Books must be typed. A typewriter, word processor or computer may be used. It is important to present a clean page. Smudges and double hits with typewriter keys can spoil an otherwise very good Prayer Book for judging.
- B. Use only one side of the paper per sheet.
- C. Very little or no decorations on sheets with prayers or devotional thoughts.
- D. Full page pictures may be used for dividers or insertions.
- E. Prayers may be original or of your preference. The author's name MUST be listed. Member's name and Unit number MUST be listed as "Contributed by: Jane Doe, Unit 123" and the Unit number may be listed after or under the name.
- F. Devotional thoughts may be scriptures from the Bible, poems or other articles. The author's name or source MUST be listed. The contributing member's name and Unit number MUST be listed.
- G. If the author or source is unknown type "Author Unknown".
- H. Use dividers available at school supply centers or your own dividers for the TWO SECTIONS, namely, 1 - PRAYERS and 2- DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS. Dividers may be tastefully decorated.
- I. Be sure to spell correctly. Even if you use spell check do your own spell check to find any grammatical errors or words that seem right to the computer but in reality are wrong for the meaning.
- IV Introduction page.....15 points
- Double-spaced and centered on the page and include the following information:
- A. American Legion Auxiliary Seal (available from Department Headquarters)
 - B. Name and number of Unit
 - C. Address of the Unit
 - D. Name of Department
 - E. Name of Unit Chaplain
 - F. Name of Unit President
 - G. Year (2011 - 2012)

Sample

**ABC Unit #000
123 Center Street
Any town, NE 00000**

Department of Nebraska

**Jane Doe, Chaplain
Susie Smith, President**

2011 - 2012

V Summary Page.....15 points

- A. Unit name and number
- B. Name of Department
- C. Number of members in Unit
- D. Signature of Unit Chaplain
- E. Signature of Unit Chaplain

AWARDS

Unit Prayer Books will be judged at the District Conventions. Please use these guidelines for judging the Senior Prayer Books.

THE WINNING DISTRICT SENIOR PRAYER BOOKS ARE TO BE SENT TO ME POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2012 FOR DEPARTMENT JUDGING.

Rita Wagner, PO Box 346, Elgin, NE 68636.

I will give a personal award to every Chaplain who sends me a written report of what they have done to promote this program. No rules except that it should be postmarked on or before May 1, 2012. I hope to receive lots of information.

CITATION POINTS 20 points assigned

- 5 pts - Opened and closed every meeting with prayer.
- 3 pts - Made a Unit Prayer Book
- 2 pts - Entered Unit Prayer Book in District competition
- 2 pts - Conducted Memorial Services and/or draped the Charter for deceased members
- 2 pts - Unit donated to Gold Star Fund
- 2 pts - Unit recognized Gold Star members in some way
- 1 pt - Unit used Grace Cards
- 2 pts - Used Chaplain's Corner from the Star or the Reflections Page from that National Auxiliary Magazine
- 1 pt - Made a Poppy wreath to be placed in local churches

GOLD STAR - RITA WAGNER

In 1940, the President of the United States designated the last Sunday in September as a day for honoring Gold Star Mothers. We have taken that another step and honor all Gold Star members. Units may choose September or any month to honor the Gold Star members. A gold Star program can be used at a regular meeting or at a special luncheon or tea or other event. Units can give the Gold Star members a gift or plant or make donations in their name to a favorite project. If the Gold Star members are no longer able to make it to the Unit meetings or are residing in a Nursing Home, Units can visit them and take them a gift. We need their support and they need our support.

Honor these special members all year long and not just the month of your program. Remember them with notes or cards for the different holidays. Pay their dues. Give them a Gold Star Banner. If they are able let them participate in parades held in your community. Make sure that their Auxiliary pin is a Gold Star pin.

A donation to the Gold Star Fund helps provide gifts for the enjoyment and comfort of the Veterans in our Medical Centers and Veteran Homes.

Make sure your Gold Star members have their story listed in the book that Charleen Walters has been working on. If they have not sent their story to Charleen contact her for information.