



## Our History

### 1919

The American Legion Auxiliary is first established to support The American Legion.

### 1921

The first National Convention convenes in Kansas City, MO. The Poppy of Flanders Field becomes the memorial flower of the Auxiliary.

### 1925

The Auxiliary moves its National Headquarters to the War Memorial Plaza in Indianapolis, IN.

### 1927

It is decided that only veteran-made poppies will be distributed by the Auxiliary.

### 1934

The Auxiliary establishes Junior membership.

### 1936

The American Legion Auxiliary's Bulletin becomes the National News.

### 1937

The Girls State program is created.

### 1944

The Auxiliary's program for the rehabilitation of disabled veterans is created.

### 1947

The first Girls Nation is held in Washington, DC.

### 1950

The first Golden Press/Golden Mike media awards are presented.

### 1953

The first Women's Forum on National Security convenes in Washington.

### 1970

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is established.

### 1972

Cavalcade of Memories is established at National Headquarters.

### 1979

President Carter signs a bill extending Legion eligibility to Vietnam-era veterans.

### 1980

The first Awareness Assembly is held in Washington, DC, replacing The Women's Forum.

**1988**

Heart of America Awards are initiated, replacing the Golden Press/Golden Mike Awards.

**1990**

Eligibility is extended to veterans of Grenada, Lebanon, and Panama.

**1992**

Eligibility is extended to veterans of the Persian Gulf hostilities.

**1995**

The 50th session of Girls Nation is celebrated.

**2000**

The American Legion Auxiliary celebrates its 80th year.

**2001**

The American Legion Auxiliary becomes a host sponsor of the Department of National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

**2002**

In response to the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001, Auxiliary members donated nearly \$100,000 to various relief efforts.

**2003**

American Legion Auxiliary members respond to the wartime deployment of U.S. Troops overseas in "Operation Iraqi Freedom"

**2006**

American Legion Auxiliary National President JoAnn Cronin raises over \$100,000 for the Auxiliary's co-hosted event: the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

**2007**

American Legion Auxiliary National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan begins an endowment fund for the National President's Scholarship entitled "Educating Children of Warriors." The goal is \$1.2 million.