



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 Fourum 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.