



ALA GIRLS NATION: A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS



DAY THREE: JULY, 20 HIGHLIGHTS:

- ALA National President
- Party Caucuses
- Senate Session II & III
- Service Project
- The American Legion
Commander Address





ALA NATIONAL PRESIDENT



ALA Girls Nation had a strong day three start with ALA National President Pam Ray addressing the senators in the morning. During her speech, she recognized the four ALA Junior members serving in the ALA Girls Nation 2026 Senate, the scholarship opportunities provided by the ALA and other Auxiliary programs.



She also shared with the senators her and her father's experience with Honor Flight Network, an organization near and dear to her. Before gifting presidential pins to the senators, Ray explained the significance and symbolism in her pin's design: The shape of wings is meant to honor the positive impact the Honor Flight experience has on veterans and their guardians.



MISSION DRIVEN, FAMILY FOCUSED





CAUCUSES & SENATE





SERVICE PROJECT



A tried-and-true tradition of ALA Girls Nation is the senators giving back and working on a service project. This year, the 2026 Senate worked on a project for veterans attending Honor Flights. The Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization that honors veterans by providing a day of honor in the nation's capital. Marion Watkins, interim CEO, shared more about the nonprofit with the senators.



Senators banded together to fill goodie bags for veterans who travel on Honor Flights and Lone Eagle Honor Flights. These bags will be handed out to these veterans to not only be a gift to help the travel experience, but also to show gratitude and support for their service. Along with this service project, during arrival day, senators worked on messages to share their thanks with the veterans. Many senators expressed great interest in the Honor Flight presentation and volunteer opportunities.

★ THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER ★

American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley was the third speaker of the day. Wiley, a U.S. Air Force veteran, spoke on the importance of strong leadership and passion. He recognized what an honor it is for the 2026 ALA Girls Nation to be in session during America's 250th. His speech recognized the sacrifices and history the United States went through to reach this milestone.



AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY

Wiley complimented the senators for their achievement of being selected to ALA Girls Nation. In his address, he spoke on how their passion would lead to a brighter and stronger future. After his words of encouragement, he presented his pin and challenge coin to each senator. ALA Girls Nation leadership paid gratitude for his time and visit with ALA Girls Nation merchandise.

BETTER TOGETHER





HEAR FROM THE SENATORS



Question: What were your thoughts as you were learning about Honor Flight Network?

“

My pop-pop was a Vietnam vet, and he gained a Purple Heart after service. [We] had just sort of started talking about his time in the Marines and serving because he didn't really speak about it ... Tears started coming to my eyes thinking about how impactful this program can be, not only for him, but people like him who ... It's definitely an amazing program ... Having her come in — the speaker — and be so willing to tell us each about it and share this opportunity has been so amazing.

— REAGAN, SOUTH CAROLINA

Question: What stood out to you from American Legion National Commander Wiley's speech?

“

Him telling us that we're the future of this country. I know they've said that a lot, but I mean, the fact that we're sitting in this room with 102 girls from all over the country — it's just such a diverse group of females — and to have somebody come in here and tell me 'You are the future of the country' — I think it gives us just so much hope and encourages us to keep going and moving forward ... Having that male perspective is also very important to know that the other side also supports us.

— SARAH, ALASKA