

My fellow SAL members;

National Sons of The American Legion Commander Michael Fox launched his 2021-2022 Service Project at the most recent national convention. It is known as Flying Flags for Heroes. FFFH honors those who paid with their lives in the service of their country. Some paid instantly, others paid over a lifetime. The program was created six years ago by a young SAL member in California named Preston Sharp when he was only 10 years old! Commander Fox's goal is to place American flags on the graves of 1,000,000 military veterans buried in local cemeteries throughout the fifty-four detachments.

Detachment of Texas Commander Tom Arista has appointed me to oversee the placement of flags in the great state of Texas. I have set our goal at 18,000 flags to be placed throughout Texas, before the next national convention. I believe that working together we can reach or surpass that goal. There is no specific day on which this is to be done. This is a SAL driven event, but you can enlist the help of your Legion Post, Auxiliary, Riders, family, friends, neighbors, community leaders, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, local schools, churches and other civic groups. You can do this several times during the year. Placing even one flag on a veteran's gravesite brings us one flag closer to achieving the goal.

It's all very simple. The 4"x6" stick flags are inexpensive. For the cost of a soft drink and hotdog you can buy 10 flags, but you can also ask for flag donations from your local retailer, hardware store, grocer, or benevolent association. Contact your local (non-National) cemetery and ask for permission to place the flags. Some cemeteries have their own flags and will allow you to use theirs. Find out how many veterans are buried in that cemetery. Pick a day and make it a community event. Contact your local media outlet. Have a brief and solemn ceremony and place the flags. Take pictures, include details, record how many flags were placed and upload the photos and information to [flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://flyingflagsforheroes.com). If the cemetery does not allow you to leave the flags, simply retrieve them and use them for another event.

Participating in this endeavor is an act of patriotism and a show of respect for those who served and protected our country. This is a minimal cost, high visibility activity that takes very little of your time. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your participation in making this national program a success. The success of Commander Fox's service project relies on group participation and ensuring the

number of flags are recorded accurately. I've included my email address should you have any questions or suggestions. Please let me know the details of your great event(s) and let me know how many flags you place. We are the proud possessors of a priceless heritage.

For God and Country.

Respectfully,

George Alva, Commander SAL 20<sup>th</sup> District

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