

Veterans Group

For more information, go to nalc.org/veterans.

November Veterans Group issue

Only members of the NALC Veterans Group will be listed in the November Veterans Group issue, so join now to be included.

Join the NALC Veterans Group today

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces comprise almost a quarter of the membership of the National Association of Letter Carriers—active NALC members as well as retired members. As of right now, we have nearly 20,000 members in the Veterans Group; however, there are thousands of members who are veterans and have not signed up.

These veterans traded their military uniforms for letter carrier uniforms, and they continue to serve their communities and this great nation.

The creation of the NALC Veterans Group is intended to be something tangible and useful.

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members who are military veterans access to the information and tools specific to veterans' rights and benefits within the U.S. Postal Service. It also is intended to give veterans a sense of family and more brotherhood/sisterhood. It seeks to provide all NALC members who are also military vet-

erans—active full-time and part-time letter carriers, as well as retired letter carriers—resources, rights information and a sense of camaraderie.

NALC has made it easier for all veterans to sign up for the group. You can fill out the form on the website and mail it in, or you can fill out the form shown below and mail it in.

And you can go to nalc.org/join-veterans, which will generate an email. You then will need to enter the information requested—name, address, branch number, military branch and any affiliated veterans groups. Once the fields are completed, press “send.” You will then be entered in our NALC Veterans Group and you will be sent an NALC Veteran pin.

Don't forget about the Veterans Group memorabilia that is available to purchase if you are a member of



The screenshot shows the NALC website's 'MEMBER BENEFITS' section. It features the NALC logo at the top, followed by navigation links: 'About NALC', 'News & Research', 'Government Affairs', 'Workplace Issues', and 'Union Administration'. Below these is a section titled 'MEMBER BENEFITS' with the subtext 'Join the NALC Veterans Group'. A large circular seal with an American flag and the text 'ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL VETERAN' is displayed. At the bottom, there is a form titled 'To join the NALC Veterans group, click here to send an email. Please provide:' with fields for Name, Address, Branch number, Military branch and, and Any affiliated veterans groups.

Joining the Veterans Group online is easy. Simply go to nalc.org/join-veterans, click the link to generate an email and send your information to NALC Headquarters.

the Veterans Group. These items would make a great gift from a branch to its veterans; check out nalcstore.org to order. All proceeds go toward future Veterans Group projects.

Veteran profile: Alyssa Pinero

Growing up in Madison, IL, Alyssa Pinero had dreamed of being in the Army since high school. She wanted a career that would allow her to travel, see new places and build a career, but little did she know that her life would end up going in a different direction.

Just as she was about to join the military, Pinero found out that she was pregnant, so she put her plans on hold. Waiting until her daughter was 6 months old, she enlisted in the Army Reserve and left for training when her daughter was 1.

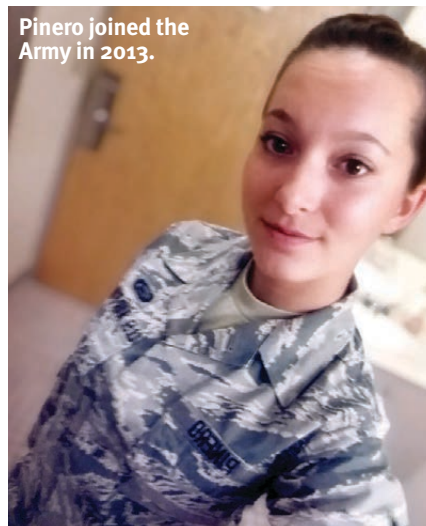
To ensure she would be able to

stay involved in her daughter's life, she accepted a personnel position at Scott Air Force Base near her home in Illinois rather than pursuing a position that would require more travel. For three years, 2013 to 2016, she helped with military IDs, paperwork and orders.

Although it was mainly just a job for her, Pinero made many friends from different parts of the country who she still keeps in touch with now, mainly over social media.

“It's just nice to still try to stay in touch with people that you created close bonds with, or at least watch

Pinero joined the Army in 2013.



everybody be successful,” she said.

The death of several close family members in a short period of time affected Pinero mentally, and she ultimately decided it would be best for her to leave the military. Due to her difficult family situation, her military commanders allowed her to receive an honorable discharge.

“With the right people over you, they do care about your well-being,” she said.

She originally planned to return to the military once things stabilized but soon found out she was pregnant with her second child.

“Life had different plans,” Pinero said. “I can’t miss these years that I’ve missed with my first daughter.”

One of the biggest challenges after leaving the military was adjusting to chaotic civilian life that lacked the strict structure and expectations of the Army.

“You’re like, what is this chaos?” she said. “I’m not used to this; I’m used to structure and order and it just—it felt weird.”

Pinero joined the Postal Service in 2016 when her second daughter

was 6 months old and has remained there ever since, joining Granite City Branch 1132. She said that the Postal Service was a good opportunity because it provided for her and her family. Although starting the job was stressful, she found a strong sense of community among her co-workers that eventually “felt like family.”

She became involved in the union and served as branch secretary for about two years. She still regularly attends branch meetings.

Although Pinero initially struggled because the military career she had envisioned in high school didn’t come to fruition in the way she wanted, over time she began to accept and appreciate the way her life had turned out.

She recently welcomed her third child to her family. The Postal Service brought her more than a job; she also met her fiancé at the post office. They had known each other since high school, but reconnected while working together.

“I’m very happy where I’m at,” Pinero said. “I’m really thankful for all the connections I’ve had.”



Pinero is a member of Granite City, IL Branch 1132.

Join the NALC Veterans Group

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members—both active and retired letter carriers—who are also military veterans the ability to connect with fellow NALC veterans and stay informed on issues of importance to letter carrier veterans. It is free to join.

Members receive a pin as a symbol of gratitude for your military service and membership in NALC.

If you are interested in joining the group, complete the sign-up card at right and mail it to the address included. A fillable version is also available at nalc.org/veterans.



You continue to serve your country—
THANK YOU!

NALC Veterans Group

Complete this form and mail it to:
NALC Veterans Group, c/o NALC,
100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

NALC BRANCH NUMBER: _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

I BELONG TO THE FOLLOWING VETERAN GROUP(S):

☐ AMERICAN LEGION ☐ DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS ☐ VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
☐ OTHER: _____

Free
to join