



AMERICANISM - PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Ashleigh Horsky - Chairman

585 Park Ave #3C Brooklyn, NY 11206 Telephone:(347) 356-0194

Email: she0722she@gmail.com

Americanism is the guardian of our Constitution. It is the driving force behind America's desire to prosper as a free nation. At times it urges our men and women into action, rallying them into a single, strongly united force. Americanism is something that thrives in the souls of true patriots every day. We show Americanism when we take pride in our nation's past achievements...and commit ourselves to America's future ambitions.

Do you know your Stars?

For as long as I can remember every time I walked into my VFW home I would see a banner with a red border and a blue star in the center and would ask what it meant. The answer I always received was do your research and you will know what it means. I not only researched the banner in my VFW Post I researched all the stars, their meanings and how they are honored.

Gold Star: A Gold Star represents family members who have lost a loved one in military service. ***We show our respect to these families not by applauding them but asking them what the name of their Star is.***

Blue Star: A Blue Star represents family members who are currently serving in the military, guard, or reserves or who are Veterans.

Silver Star: A Silver Star represents family members who are wounded, ill, and/or injured Veterans from any branch of the Armed Forces.

White/Green Star: A White/Green Star represents family members lost from suicide from any branch of service. This star also includes first responders and medical frontline workers.

I Am Proud To Be An American!!!

Are you a proud American? How do you show your American Pride? We show our American Pride by respecting and honoring our "***Stars and Stripes***" and our **Patriotic Symbols**. We as members teach our younger generations ***Flag Etiquette***. This includes how to properly care, treat and dispose of the American Flag. We educate them about the importance of traditions like Patriotic Days to Remember and how to properly recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem.

More information on Flag Etiquette and Patriotic Days to Remember can be found when you scan the QR code located at the bottom of my program.

POW / MIA

POW/MIA means **Prisoner of War / Missing in Action**, we use the term to honor and remember those American service members who were captured or went missing during conflicts, to always make sure they are never forgotten and that our nation continues to seek their return. As of today, there are still **OVER 81,000 POW/MIA's**. How do you honor our **POW/MIA's**? Does your Auxiliary have a POW/MIA table displayed at your post? Do you host a POW/MIA Recognition Day?

The Auxiliary that hosts the most outstanding activity and or event educating their community about how we honor our **POW/MIA's (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action)** will receive a traveling POW/MIA kit at the *VFW Aux June Dept. Convention in 2026*.

FALL CONFERENCE

Wreaths Across America- Established in 2007 by wreath producer Morrill Worcester this American Non-profit Organization is known for distributing homemade balsam wreaths to the graves of our departed Veterans laid to rest in VA National Cemeteries and State Veterans Cemeteries. This year's program will be the ***"\$5 Forward Plan."*** This means \$5 for every \$17 wreath sponsored will be applied forward to the sponsorship of an additional Veterans wreath. WAA this year will take place on December 13, 2025. **Information and order form will be included in the President's Packets.**

SPRING CONFERENCE

Honor Flight- This is a Non-profit Organization that is dedicated to transporting as many United States Military Veterans as possible to see the memorials of the respective war(s) they fought in at Washington D.C. at no cost to the Veteran. For \$5 you can sign and purchase "Thank You" cards to be distributed during "Mail Call." If you are not able to sign a card ***"Don't worry about it, I got you!!!"*** If you cannot sign the card, I will sign it for you! **Forms will be included in the President's Packet.**

AWARDS

National Awards for Auxiliaries- Most outstanding activity and/or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.
- Entry Form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Form must be sent to me by March 31, 2026 for judging. I will then forward the Department winning entry to the National Americanism Ambassador by April 30, 2026, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries- The VFW Auxiliary that has the most outstanding Americanism Program will receive a Citation and \$20 for First Place; \$15 for Second Place; \$10 for Third Place in each membership group. All Auxiliaries that participate in the VFW Auxiliary Department Convention Massing of the Colors will also receive a Citation.

REPORT!!!

REPORT!!!

REPORT!!!

DON'T FORGET REPORTS ARE DUE BY THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH!!!

***REMEMBER TO "ALWAYS STAY TRUE TO OUR RED, WHITE, AND BLUE"
"FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA, HONORING VETERANS WHO KEEP US FREE"***

