

**Americanism Program, Patriotic Instructor  
Rose Cooper, Chairman**

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Americanism, also referred to as American Patriotism, is a set of nationalist values which aim to create a collective American identity for the United States that can be defined as "an articulation of the nation's rightful place in the world, a set of traditions, a political language, and a cultural style imbued with political meaning".

**In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, "Americanism is a question of spirit, conviction, and purpose, not of creed or birthplace."**

**Flag Education:** Demonstrating Americanism and Patriotic Spirit is done by showing how to respect and properly care for the U.S. Flag. Flag etiquette covers everything from proper displaying of our Flag to acceptable conduct around this symbol of our nation.

**1. Respect for the Flag – Engaging the Community**

- **Flag Education in School** – Educating our youth about Patriotism teaches good citizenship. Members are encouraged to volunteer in schools and educate youth about respecting Our Flag.
- **Recognition of Outstanding Community Flag Display** – Present a Business, Organization, or Community member with a certificate of appreciation through your Auxiliary.
- **Flag Retirement Ceremonies** – This is a great way to involve the whole family of Auxiliary and VFW members, as well as the entire community.

**For more information on all flag etiquette refer to MALTA Member Resources.**

**2. #AuxiliaryPatriotism - Promote Patriotism- Celebrating Patriotic Holidays**

- **July 4<sup>th</sup>** – Independence Day
- **September 11<sup>th</sup>** – Patriot Day
- **September 20<sup>th</sup>** – POW/MIA Recognition Day
- **September 29<sup>th</sup>** – Gold Star Mother’s & Family’s Day
- **November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Veterans Day
- **December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Pearl Harbor Day
- **February 21<sup>st</sup>** – Presidents Day
- **March 29<sup>th</sup>** – National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- **May 1<sup>st</sup>** - Loyalty Day
- **May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Armed Forces Day
- **May 30<sup>th</sup> (Traditional)** – Memorial Day
- **June 14<sup>th</sup>** – Flag Day

**3. Branch of Service Birthdates and Military Order of Precedence**



Army  
06/14/1775



Marine Corps  
11/10/1775



Navy  
10/13/1775



Air Force  
09/18/1947



Space Force  
12/20/2019



Coast Guard  
08/04/1790



National Guard  
12/13/1636  
Not Displayed

#### 4. Star Family Recognition

- **Gold Star-** is a banner displayed when a family member has made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the armed forces during war zone.
- **Blue Star-** is a banner displayed when a family member is actively serving in the armed forces.
- **Silver Star-** is a banner displayed when a family member has been wounded, contracted a serious illness or injury in a war zone.
- **White Star-** the White Star designation recognizes **families who have lost a service member to suicide**, whether they were military or first responders.

**FALL CONFERENCE: Wreaths Across America** – this is the 19<sup>th</sup> year Wreaths Across America will deliver handmade balsam wreaths in tribute to Veterans laid to rest in VA National Cemeteries and State Veteran Cemeteries. Visit <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org> for videos of the wreath laying on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in December. Information and order form included in Presidents Packets.

**SPRING CONFERENCE: Honor Flight** - Honor Flights are dedicated to transporting as many United States Military Veterans as possible to Washington DC to see the memorials of the respective war they fought in at no cost to them. You can purchase and sign a “Thank you for your service and sacrifices” card for \$5.00 each. All signed cards and money raised will be distributed to each of the NY Honor Flight Hubs. If you are unable to attend the conference, “Don’t worry about it...I’ll sign the card for you!” Forms will be included in the Presidents package, or you can email me for one.

**NATIONAL AWARDS for AUXILIARIES:** Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 program divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about lesser-known Patriotic Holidays.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Form must be sent to Department Chairman by March 31<sup>st</sup>, for judging. Department Chairman must sign and forward copy to National Americanism Ambassador by April 30<sup>th</sup> for judging.

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

**DEPARTMENT AWARDS for AUXILIARIES:** The Auxiliary that has the most outstanding Patriotism Program will receive a Citation and (\$20) for First Place; (\$15) for Second Place; and (\$10) for third Place in each membership group. Plus a Citation to each Auxiliary that Participate in the 2024-2025 Massing of the Colors at Department Convention.

**REPORT !**

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**“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service With Our Veterans and Their Families”  
“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”**