



AMERICANISM - PARTIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

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“True Americanism is an ideology that is continually nurtured within one’s soul through individual daily actions, thoughts and beliefs in what their responsibilities are to be, blessed to live in one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.” Jeff Stoffer

A very large part of showing your pride as an American and demonstrating your Patriotism is to teach others how to respect and care for the United States Flag. We as Auxiliary members should know and be prepared to teach others the **when** and **how** to properly care for and display our Flag.

Flag Education

We must not only limit ourselves to teaching the youth, but also look to our fellow Americans to properly fly and store our Flag. Flag etiquette, like saluting, saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and knowing the Flag should **never touch the ground** are things we learned as children but may have been forgotten through lack of use. It is OUR job to fix this. For more information on Flag etiquette, you can visit: vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette.

Recognizing an Outstanding Flag display in your communities. Many of us go out daily to walk around the neighborhood, go shopping or even to the doctors. While we are “out and about” we can often see members of our communities properly displaying the “Stars & Stripes”. They can be recognized by presenting them with a Certificate of Appreciation. Certificates can be found on vfwauxny.org or vfwauxiliary.org under the Americanism Program. **Snap’em for Bragging Rights. Please take and email me pictures of these displays. Whatever district sends me the most will win bragging rights at the 2024 Convention.**

Prisoner of War - Missing in Action

Imagine the numbers. Did you know that as of today there are still approximately 81,500 Americans still listed as missing from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, the Southwest Asia Wars. Over 41,000 are listed as Missing in Action-Body Not Recovered. Most are missing from ships and aircraft. Not everyone that sees that black and white flag, or that solemn table set for one, knows the true meaning or heartache associated with them. These missing should never be forgotten by us, their families never will. We need to acknowledge them daily, for just a few minutes a day imagine that your father, husband, wife, or sister was missing. If you find a family in your area, reach out to them, invite them to your Post to honor them and their missing loved one. Take a picture of a **Missing Man Table** add the **#morethanletters** hashtag and email it to me. Auxiliary with the most pictures will receive a portable Missing Man Table Kit at the 2024 Department convention. Each Auxiliary can request a Prisoner of War- Missing in Action flag for FREE from the Department of NY. Order forms will be included in the Presidents Package. They can be displayed at your Post or donated to someone in the community. **All orders must be in by Fall Conference/ picked up at Spring Conference.**

*“Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans” as we are
“Banding Together for Our Veterans.”*

It's All in the Stars... A star banner has a white field with a red border and contains one or more of these very important stars or stars. More than one star of each color can be on a single banner.

Gold Star- is a banner displayed when a family member has made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the armed forces during wartime.

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.

Every year on the last Sunday in September we recognize Gold Star Families. On this day we should have events at our Auxiliaries to educate our family and friends by inviting them to speak to us and share their stars' names and speak about the one they lost. We honor them through a Moment of Silence, you do not applaud for a Gold Star Family member at any time as a show of respect for them and their lost one.

Fall Conference- On December 16, 2023, **Wreaths Across America** will be entering their 18th year of delivering handmade balsam wreaths in tribute to our veterans that are laid to rest at the VA National and State Veteran Cemeteries. The price of wreaths is \$17.00 each or three for \$34.00. Order forms will be included in the Presidents package, or you can email me for one.

Spring Conference- 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.

Patriotic Days to Remember

July: 4th- Independence Day

27th- National Korean War Veteran Armistice Day

Dec: 7th – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

May- Military Appreciation Month

1st- Loyalty Day

12th- Military Spouse Appreciation Day

20th- Armed Forces Day

30th- Memorial Day

August: 7th-National Purple Heart Day

Sept: 11th- Patriot Day

15th- Prisoner of War-Missing in Action

Recognition Day

24th – Gold Star Mothers' & Families day

Mar. 29th- National Vietnam Veterans Day

June -14th Flag Day

Remember when promoting the Americanism Program within our communities' activities, events, recognition awards and even when honoring patriotic days, remember to LIGHT UP social media with the hashtag **#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM**. Let the great state of NY VFW Auxiliary "Light the Flame of Hope For Our Veterans!!!"

REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!

Reports are due by the 1st of every month! I look forward to reading / seeing everyone's hard work.

Most outstanding activity and or event educating their community that our VFW Auxiliary are "more than letters."

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and or event that educates their community that our VFW Auxiliary acronyms are 'more than letters'. Entry form required and available in Malta Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to Department Chairman John Horsky by March 31, 2024, for judging.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each Conference that hosts the most outstanding activity and of event educating their community that our VFW Auxiliary acronyms are "more than letters". Auxiliaries must send entry form to Department Chairman John Horsky by March 31, 2024, 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.

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