



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Americanism – December 2025/January 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Americanism - Michigan

National Theme: *From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free*

Department Theme: *We Don't Know Them All, But We Owe Them All*

It was so good seeing so many of you at the Fall Conference. Hope you found the School of Instruction informative and helpful. For those of you that could not attend, I have posted my PowerPoint presentation on the Facebook page. Thank you to those members who came and introduced themselves – I love meeting members and putting a face to the name. Don't forget to report attending the Department School of Instruction.

PRESENT PATRIOTIC APPRECIATION CITATIONS/CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION OR RESPECT FOR THE FLAG CITATIONS

I've only received a few reports about the Certificates and/or Citations that the Auxiliary has been passing out to local businesses and citizens. Remember, we want to spot and acknowledge Patriotism and Americanism in action. One of the best ways to do this is to recognize and reward the behavior. Let's reward those businesses, neighbors, and general public for their displays of the American flag or celebration of Patriotic Days and Observances.

Take a drive around your block, neighborhood, or local community. Take note of the businesses that are flying the American flag or have patriotic displays. Were there businesses in your communities that offered specials for veterans on Veterans' Day? Is there someone in your neighborhood or town or surrounding community that flies their flag, has patriotic displays in their neighborhood, or does something especially nice for local veterans? Make a list of these people and/or businesses and present them with a Certificate or Citation for supporting the ideals of Americanism and patriotism.

At the School of Instruction, I talked about the Random Acts of Patriotism cards that we used to give out to kids when we saw them doing something patriotic. Do the same thing for adults and businesses. Create your own RAP cards and pass them along when you see someone doing something patriotic. Another idea is to use those painted rocks. Paint the rocks red, white, and blue or with a flag and maybe a little saying like "thank you for your patriotism" and pass those out. Come up with your own ideas and implement them and then tell me about it.

PROMOTE/PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS TO PROVIDE FLAG EDUCATION

Flag education is something that we can do every day. Be creative. Start with the kids and work into the community. We talk a lot about education of kids in the school and community because if we instill in the children of today, they will carry this into the future. Make it fun! Go to the schools, daycare centers, church youth programs, and scouting events. Have projects or simple contests for them that will pique their interest and make learning flag etiquette and education fun and interesting. Some ideas include:

- Flag coloring contests for younger kids

- U.S. Flag code pamphlets about proper display of the flag
- Trivia games
- Use education tools on MALTA
- Include kids with helping to raise and lower the flag during events
- Crossword puzzles
- Have kids help with proper folding of the flags and detail what each fold means as they folding it.

For adults, you can do some of the same kinds of projects, but just on a more advanced scale. Put articles in local newspapers – especially just before parade times so people know the facts about parade etiquette regarding flags. Even our members can use some helpful reminders. As the Patriotic Instructor, each meeting you can give some information on flag displays.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Please send me your Gold Star Families whether they are from your Post and Auxiliary or just someone you know. I would like pictures of the veteran, their names, branch of service and where and when they died, please. Give the associated family members names. This is something I'm putting together for the MidWinter Conference, so I would appreciate having this by January 5th so I have time to compile it. My email address is legalblaze@aol.com. If you can't electronically send it, definitely get it to me earlier so I can get it scanned.

FROM OUR NATIONAL AMBASSADOR – DIANA RUSSEL-MILTON

Check out the blog on the MALTA website under Member Resources. Scroll down the left side to National Program Blogs. The Americanism Blogs are at the top on the right. There are some from the last few years. You can read all of them if you like – Americanism and Patriotism never go out of style but, for this year, look at those dated for 2025-26 Year.

REPORTING

Report everything even if you are not sure it fits. **The next reporting deadline is January 31, 2026.** If you did something in a prior period but forgot to report it, it's okay. Report it now. Use the date of entry as the project date and put date completed in the body of the report.

HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

December 1 – Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Birthday – CAP was established on December 1, 1941 to mobilize civilian aviation resources for national defense during WWII. CAP now conducts emergency services, disaster relief, and aerospace education. It is the Auxiliary to the Air Force.

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day – On Sunday, December 7th, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service initiated a surprise attack on the U.S. Naval Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor. The attack sank four battleships and damaged another four battleships along with seven other ships and over 300 aircrafts. A total of 2,403 military personnel and civilians were killed and 1,178 were injured. Air strikes were also made at Wheeler Field and Hickam Air Force Base. As a result of this attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war on the Empire of Japan on December 8, 1941 saying that December 7th is a “date which will live in infamy”. In August 1994, President

Bill Clinton signed a joint resolution naming December 7th as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and was observed for the first time on December 7, 1994.

December 13 – U.S. National Guard Birthday – This year marks the 388th birthday of the National Guard. In 1636, the first militia regiments were established in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Bay Colony's General Court to better defend the colony. Descendants of this first militia are the 181st Infantry, 182nd Infantry, 101st Field Artillery, and 101st Engineer Battalion – making them the oldest units in the U.S. military.

December 13 – Wreaths Across America Day – This project began in 2007 to honor our fallen heroes by placing wreaths on the graves of our deceased veterans in some 5,200 locations across America. **Please remember this event is reported under Veterans & Family Support.**

December 15 – Bill of Rights Day – Celebrates the ratification of the First 10 Amendments to the Constitution on December 15, 1791.

December 25 - Christmas

January 1 – New Years Day

January 10 – Save the Eagles Day – Originated in 2015 in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey to protect a pair of nesting bald eagles. Purpose is to raise awareness of eagles, provide education and knowledge about hazards they face to their habitats, ecosystem, poaching and other hazards.

January 14 – Ratification Day – Recognizes the signing/ratification by the Confederation Congress of the Treaty of Paris at the Maryland State House in Annapolis, Maryland which officially ended the American Revolution. As part of the Treaty, Great Britain recognized the United States as a sovereign entity.

January 19 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – This federal holiday was signed into law by President Regan in 1983 and was first observed in 1986. It is celebrated on the third Monday in January. It commemorates the huge impact Martin Luther King, Jr had on the civil rights movement in the 1950s and his non-violent protests against segregation.

January 27 – Vietnam Peace Day – Commemorates the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in 1973 which ended American involvement in the Vietnam War.

Feel free to reach out to me any time if you need assistance or help with this or any program. If you have questions about reporting or what goes where. I love hearing from the membership and love helping.

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