



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Americanism – February - March 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

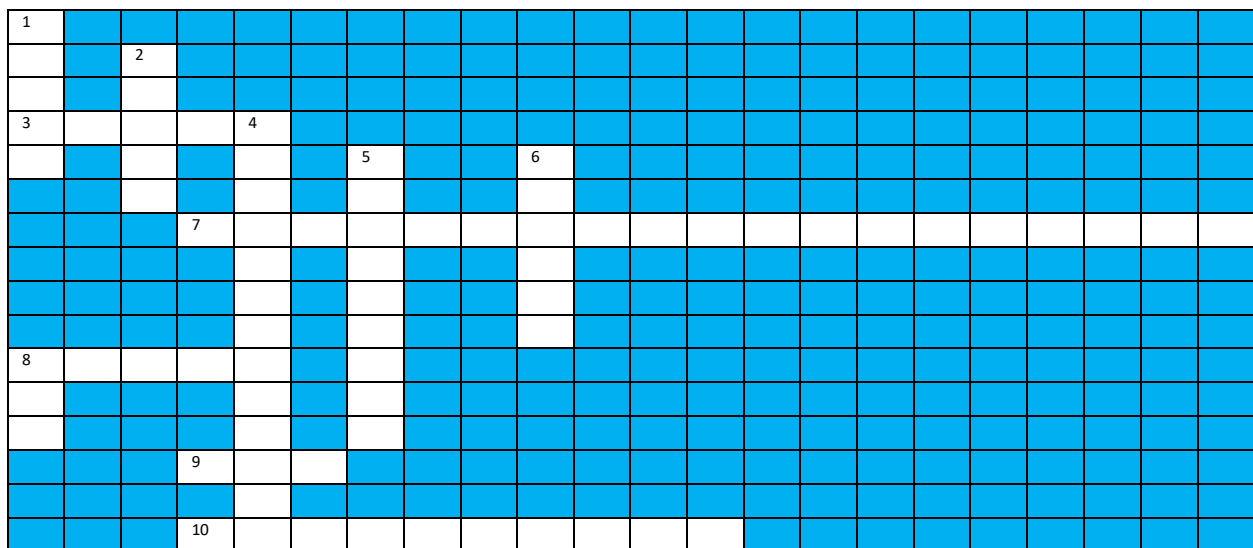
Facebook Page: Americanism - Michigan

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*

I hope all of you enjoyed the MidWinter Conference as much as I did. The students are just amazing! For those who attended, it was good to see you again and connect to share our love for Americanism and show our patriotic spirits. I hope you got at least one thing from the program presentations that will help you in your Auxiliary.

FLAG ETIQUETTE DURING MEETINGS – Let's have a little fun. Answers will be on Facebook



ACROSS	DOWN
3. What type of salute is used in meetings	1. When facing the members, on what side of the President's station is the Patriotic Instructor's flag placed
7. Who ensures flags are properly arranged (2 words)	2. What do you do when flags are moving during the meeting
8. How many times do you salute the flag during a regular meeting	4. What direction does the eagle face (2 words)
9. Can a veteran member use a military salute instead of heart salute	5. Proper method for retiring torn/tattered flags (3 words)
10. What is another resource for flag etiquette (3 words)	6. In the Bylaws, where do you find info about flag placement/etiquette
	8. In traditional meetings, how many U.S. flags are on the floor

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

While talking to a member, she made a statement about there really isn't much to do this time of the year. This is the best time of year to work hard on promoting patriotism and Americanism because there are fewer events and holidays to light the patriotic spirit. The best way to do this is to acknowledge and thank those around us who show their patriotism through flying their flags or doing things for our veterans. Citations and certificates of appreciation are an awesome way to help businesses; members and our communities know that we appreciate what they do and have them take pride in displaying their Americanism and patriotism. There are several certificates and citations available on MALTA under Member Resources in the Americanism section. You can use those or develop one of your own. Make sure to report this as I have very few reports about passing out citations. Please remember when reporting this, tell me how many you gave out.

FROM OUR NATIONAL AMBASSADOR – DIANA RUSSEL-MILTON

Check out the blog on the MALTA website under Member Resources. In Ambassador Diana's Blogs, she reminds us to work with schools and other groups to teach the kids proper flag etiquette. Teaching kids builds a commitment in them to show their pride in America and what great things they have by the sacrifices that our veterans have made. There are many tools available on MALTA to help members promote patriotism and Americanism.

REPORTING

We just completed the third quarter reporting period on January 31, 2026. Thank you for all of the wonderful reports that you are sending in. All of the Auxiliaries are doing a fantastic job promoting the program and working in their communities to light the American spirit. Great job. If you have anything that you haven't reported from prior quarters, it's not too late. You can still submit it. Just put activity date as the date you are reporting and put the actual activity date in the description. Time flies - we only have a couple months left of this reporting year. Check your Guide Sheets to see what you might be missing.

NATIONAL AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES

This award is for the most outstanding activity and/or event displaying or educating others about the proper ways to display and respect the American flag. The form is available on the Department website (vfwauxmi.org) and on MALTA under the Americanism program under Member Resources. **You must have the form to me via email or regular mail by March 31, 2026.**

HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

February 1 – National Freedom Day – On this day in 1865, President Lincoln signed a joint House and Senate resolution which later became the 13th Amendment to the Constitution outlawing slavery. This day celebrates the end of slavery and recognizes America as a symbol of liberty. National Freedom Day was established by President Truman on June 30, 1948.

National G.I. Joe Day – G.I. Joe was created as a cartoon on June 17, 1942 by former Army Sargeant David Breger. The action figure was released in 1964 to represent heroism.

February 3 – Four Chaplains Day – In 1943, the *SS Dorchester* was torpedoed by a German submarine and as it sank, the four chaplains assisted civilians and military personnel onto lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets to save others. They were awarded the Purple Heart.

February 12 – Abraham Lincoln's Birthday – Also known as Lincoln's Day it commemorates the birth of our 16th President and the role he played in the end of slavery and leadership during the Civil War.

February 15 – Susan B. Anthony Day – Although not a national holiday, this day is observed as remembrance of the work she did to establish women's right to vote. Unfortunately, she died in 1906 – 14 yrs prior to the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

February 16 – Presidents Day/Washington's Birthday – Became a federal holiday in 1879 to celebrate our Founding Father and first U.S. President's birthday which was actually February 22nd. It was moved to the third Monday in February in 1968 as part of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. It is also intended to honor all American Presidents.

February 19 – Iwo Jima Day – commemorates the Battle of Iwo Jima and the successful capture of the Japanese island during WWII. The image of six Marines raising the American flag has stood as a legacy of patriotism and Americanism.

U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Birthday – The Coast Guard Reserve was established 1941 and will celebrate it's 85th birthday. It was modeled after the Naval Reserve. After WWII, these reservists performed coastal patrols and port security work.

February 8-14 – National Salute to Veteran Patients Week – Established in 1978 by the Veterans' Administration, the week is dedicated to veterans in VA hospitals and facilities to honor and thank them for their service.

March 1 – Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day – Established in 2002 by President George W. Bush, this day serves as a memorial to the naval veterans who lost their lives in 1942 as the *U.S.S. Houston* – a part of the Asiatic Fleet was sunk during WWII defending against the Japanese fleet.

March 3 – National Anthem Day – Francis Scott Key wrote the poem that was standardized by John Philip Sousa which became The Star-Spangle Banner which was first performed on December 5, 1917. However, it did not become our National Anthem until President Herbert Hoover signed it into law in 1931.

Naval Reserve Birthday – Established by Congress in 1915. By WWII, the Naval Reserve Force made up 84% of the U.S. Navy's fighting force. It was renamed the Navy Reserve in 2005.

March 4 – Hug a G.I. Day – Founded in 1996 as a way to show appreciation and support for military personnel, both active and retired.

March 13 – National K-9 Veterans Day – Serves to mark the establishment of the U.S. Army's War Dog Program in 1942 which officially recognized dogs as part of the military. It honors military working dogs who have served alongside U.S Armed Forces since WWI.

March 16 – Robert Goddard Day – Honors physicist, Robert Goddard, who successfully launched the first liquid-fuel powered rocket in 1926. He is considered the father of modern rocketry and space exploration. His work and inventions laid the groundwork for space exploration and, therefore, the U.S. Space Force.

March 18 – National Supreme Sacrifice Day – Established in 2004 to honor those who gave their lives for the safety and freedom of others. It has been expanded to include emergency responders as well as military personnel.

March 21 – Rosie the Riveter Day – Established by Congress in 2017, this date honors the women who took up their patriotic duty in the work force to support the WWII war effort. For the first time ever, there were more than 19 million women in the work force working in factories for heavy artillery and steel mills.

March 25 – National Medal of Honor Day – First celebrated in 1991 having been signed into law and established by President George H. W. Bush. The Medal of Honor is the highest military award for valor and was created in 1861 to honor the heroism and sacrifice displayed by members of the military. The date commemorates the presentation of the first Medals of Honor in 1863 to six members of the "Andrews Raiders" during the Civil War.

March 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day – On this date in 1973, the last troops left Vietnam and the Military Assistance Command was disbanded. President Obama proclaimed March 29th a day to recognize those who served in Vietnam on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War in 2012. It was signed into law by President Trump on March 28, 2017.

March 1-7 – National Invest in Veterans Week – Dedicated to honoring veteran entrepreneurs and their contributions to global economy through mentoring and funding opportunities.

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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