



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Americanism – October/November 2025

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*

The year is moving right along. We are doing some amazing things across Michigan. Flags flying and patriotism spreading its red, white, and blue glow. The Auxiliaries are doing such a great job! I really enjoy reading your reports!

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

You should be finalizing the paperwork for any nominations you are making to the Post. You only have to submit one nominee to get credit under the program; however, you can submit as many as you would like. There are three categories – Elementary (K-5), Junior High (6-8) and High School (9-12). Rules and submission form can be found on the Department of Michigan VFW website under Programs/Teacher of the Year. An essay of not more than 350 words must accompany the submission form. The essay must detail why the nominee should be selected. Describe the teacher's innovative teaching and resource development methods, as well as his/her dedication to teaching. **The deadline for submitting a candidate to your Post is October 31, 2025.**

#AuxiliaryPatriotism

Have you tried this yet? It's really easy. I never used the hash-tag tool before and spent quite a bit of time browsing through the many posts. Log into your Facebook account. In the search bar, simply type #AuxiliaryPatriotism. You can see posts from across the country of patriotic videos, pictures, and statements. There is some really good information out there to see how people are promoting and educating the community on Americanism and patriotism. I even came across a posting that one of my own Auxiliary sisters posted last year! This is a great way also to post your own events and videos. If you have pictures or videos of your patriotic events upload it and add #AuxiliaryPatriotism and it will upload to this site. This way other people can see what you are doing to educate and support patriotism in your area.

There is also another place where you can find informative, interesting, and educational posts regarding Americanism and patriotism. It is #patriotism. I found this on accident because I forgot to put "Auxiliary" in the search. Both search tools through Facebook can give you a lot of information to share with your members and community. It may give you some interesting ideas for future events and projects. Check it out!

UNDERSTANDING AUXILIARY TRADITIONS

Patriotic Instructor Duties

As the Patriotic Instructor, you have been appointed to this high office to teach patriotism and good citizenship to the people of our country; to assist in the floor work ceremonies and perform such other duties as the Ritual may require. Patriotic Instructors provide leadership in

promoting patriotism within the membership of our organization and inform, educate and promote patriotism among the community and within the organization. Familiarize yourself with the Ritual section of the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws and highlight the sections of your responsibilities for easy and quick reference.

Here are some key duties of the Patriotic Instructor:

- Shall see that the room is in keeping with the Ritual.
- Shall instruct the members in the proper use of and salute to the Flag.
- Shall maintain a record of all patriotic days and initiate programs for their proper observance and perform such other duties as the President may require.
- May carry the Flag in events and parades.
- Shall assist in the floor work ceremonies.
- Shall see that the pledge to the Flag is given properly and that due respect to the Flag is observed at all times by members.
- It is suggested that the Patriotic Instructor instruct new members how to stand at attention, parade rest, etc.
- The Patriotic Instructor should also try to read some portion of the Bylaws at every meeting.

REPORTING

We are currently 43% reported in Americanism – great job! Let's keep that ball rolling and get President Debbie 100% reported in Americanism. **October 31st is the deadline for the second quarter**; however, you can always report anything your Auxiliary has done. If the event or project is outside the reporting period, remember to put the day as the date being reported and put the event/project day in the body of the report.

HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

October 13 – Columbus Day - Columbus Day was declared a national holiday in 1937 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Since 1971, Columbus Day has been observed annually as a federal government holiday on the second Monday of October. It recognizes the historic voyage and arrival of Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus who sailed to the Americas on October 12, 1492.

U.S. Navy Birthday – The United States Navy was established in 1775 by an act of the Continental Congress. This year it will celebrate its 250th Birthday. The Navy functionally resolved after the Revolutionary War, but was re-established in 1794. In 1798, the U.S. Navy was permanently institutionalized with the creation of the Department of the Navy. It is now the most advanced naval service in the world. The Mission statement of the Navy states: "...the U.S. Navy protects America at sea. Alongside our allies and partners, we defend freedom, preserve economic prosperity, and keep the seas open and free."

October 26 – Day of the Deployed – This day is dedicated to saying "Thank you" to all military personnel who are serving outside of the United States and the sacrifices they and their families make while serving our nation. The first observance was in North Dakota in 2006. In 2011, a resolution was unanimously passed in the U.S. Senate to dedicate this day of observance and since that time, all 50 states have continued the observance.

October 27 – Navy Day – Established in 1922 by the Navy League of the United States to honor the men and women we call sailors. Originally, it was the birthday of the U.S. Navy based on a document presented to the Continental Congress in 1775 to purchase a fleet of merchant ships, but the birthday was changed in 1970. The last official observance of Navy Day was in 1949 when the Secretary of Defense announced that Navy Day would be replaced by Armed Forces Day. However, Navy Day is still widely celebrated because it was so deeply entrenched as a Navy tradition.

October 28 – Happy Birthday to Lady Liberty – Anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886. Lady Liberty will be 139 yrs old this month. The statue was a gift from France. She was conceived by Edouard de Laboulaye and designed by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi to symbolize friendship between the United States and France. Lady Liberty has become a symbol of freedom and democracy. The Statue was dedicated as a national monument in 1924.

November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday – The Marine Corps will celebrate its 250th Birthday this year along with the Navy. The Marine Corps was established on November 10, 1775 when the Second Continental Congress put forth a decree for the Continental Marines. The two battalions were to only enlist good seamen acquainted with maritime affairs. After the Revolutionary War, the Continental Marines were disestablished along with the Continental Navy. The Marine Corps was re-established in 1798 by President John Adams.

November 11 – Veterans Day – Originally known as Armistice Day because it marked the end of WWI. The armistice with Germany went into effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. President Woodrow Wilson dedicated the first Armistice Day on November 11, 1919. In 1926, Congress passed a resolution for a yearly proclamation by the President for Armistice Day. By act of Congress on May 13, 1938, Armistice Day became a legal holiday. Again, by act of Congress, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all veterans of any wars.

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