



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Americanism / Patriotic Instructor Bulletin

December/January 2019-2020

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: VFW Auxiliary Dept of Michigan Americanism

National Theme: Serving Our Veterans with Aloha

Department Theme: Serving with a Patriot's Heart

Your previous bulletins were full of information to help you accomplish the Program Goals set forth on your Guide Sheets.

December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day. Just before 8am on the morning of December 7, 1941, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes carried out a devastating attack on the Pearl Harbor American Naval base in Honolulu, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. The Japanese aircrews managed to achieve complete surprise and for two hours, Japanese fighter, bomber and torpedo planes carried out a shocking assault on the naval base. The White House and all United States government buildings fly the American flag at half-mast as should all homes and private buildings to honor those who died in the attack at Pearl Harbor.

Work with your other chairmen to help commemorate this day and to promote patriotism to our Country.

Take this opportunity to accomplish many of your Program Goals:

- Participate in recognition of Patriotic Holidays through observance, ceremony, and/or commemoration
- Present certificates to businesses and/or citizens in recognition of displaying the U.S. Flag or other displays of American symbolism, pride, and/or patriotism
- Participate in promotion of Americanism/Patriotism and Flag etiquette education in your Auxiliary and/or in your community
- Present U.S. Flags (2" x 3" or larger) – Number of
- Present POW/MIA Flags (2" x 3" or larger) – Number of
- Participate in promotion of Americanism community education and Flag etiquette through any media, i.e. TV, radio, publications, fliers, social media, etc.
- Participate in creating an Americanism/Patriotic video with community involvement and promote on social media-- form required and available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries are to send their forms to me by March 31st, 2020.

Remember, along with being the Americanism Chairman, you are also your Auxiliary's Patriotic Instructor. Your duty is to educate and inform members on the proper salute to the U.S. Flag, as well as the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. You are also to take the time to understand the VFW Auxiliary Ritual and the federal Flag code; see page 91 of our bylaws book. Familiarize yourself with your duties in the Auxiliary Booklet of Instruction and in our Rituals. For more information, go to vfwauxmi.org > Programs > Americanism > Promote Patriotism > Understanding VFW Auxiliary Traditions. Give an instruction at each of your meetings.

If you have not done so already, participate in cooperating with other chairmen to conduct a Family Freedom Festival. Don't forget to take pictures and submit a collage at our Department Mid-Winter Conference by January 24th, 2020.

For more information, go to www.vfwauxmi.org > Programs > Family Freedom Festival.

If you have not attended a Chairman School of Instruction at a District Meeting or Fall Conference, one will be held at the Department Mid-Winter Conference in January. It is required that a chairman attends and registers for School of Instruction at any of the following: District Meeting, Dept. Fall Conference, or Dept. Mid-Winter Conference.

If you have not started to participate in creating an Americanism/Patriotic video with community involvement and promote on social media, there is still time. A National Citation will be awarded to every Auxiliary that submits a video to their Department Chairman; Form required and available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries are to send their forms to me by March 31st, 2020. Also, a Citation and \$50 will be sent to one Auxiliary in the Nation with the most outstanding video promoting patriotism with community involvement and posted to social media.

December 31st is New Year's Eve. Military members celebrate New Year's Eve and Day depending on where in the world they are stationed. Keep them in your prayers.

January 20th is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. One of the greatest American civil rights leaders of the 20th century, Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. It is a date honored nationwide on the third Monday in January.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
Look forward to this day with patriotism and pride in our Country.

February 18th is President's Day.

There are not many patriotic holidays in the next few months, so take time to focus on these opportunities now. Please check your Guide Sheets to ensure all your Program Goals will be met.

Thank you for Your Service to Our Country, Our Veterans, Our Community, and Our Organization.

Americanism Chairman/Patriotic Instructor
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