

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Americanism Bulletin
January/February 2022
www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Soaring Above & Beyond

Department Theme: Tell Our Story of Service

Patriotic Holiday

Presidents' Day Monday, February 21st.

President's Day, also known as Washington's Birthday, is on the third Monday of February each year and is a federal holiday in the United States. The day not only honors George Washington (born February 22), the first President of the United States, and Abraham Lincoln (born February 12) whose birthdays are both in February, but honors all the presidents who have served in the United States.

Why do they always fall on a Monday?

Uniform Monday Holiday Act

On June 28, 1968 the United States Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act changing many federal holidays to move over to Monday from other days of the week. Originally Washington's Birthday was celebrated on February 22nd each year but was permanently moved in 1968 with the signing of the new Act. So, the new date of President's Day will fall between February 15 and the 21st each year and never on his (Washington's) actual birthday of February 22nd.

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

So now that all the hard work is done, come to the banquet at Mid-Winter Conference on January 29th and see the award ceremonies, tickets are \$40.00 and deadline to RSVP is January 21st. You can find all the information on the Department home page.

POW/MIA

As of Nov. 12, 2021

More than 81,600 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,600 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e., ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.). Have you presented any POW/MIA flags to businesses or individual people or maybe you gave some out during a parade? Report how many.

Flag Education

If your Children give out Valentine's this year you could include a copy of the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem bookmarks that can be found on the Americanism program page. I would count this as: "Conducted a program on the Education of Americanism/Patriotism in the community or in your schools".

Promoting Americanism and Connecting with the Community using #AuxiliaryPatriotism

Have you looked at the award for #AuxiliaryPatriotism lately? Did you know you can get \$25.00 for your Auxiliary for the most outstanding use of the #AuxiliaryPatriotism hashtag in a social media post. You can find more information in the Americanism program under National Awards. Check out all the awards on the Americanism guide sheet. I've seen lots of pictures on the Department website that would qualify.... Maybe you led a flag raising at a sporting event or local business, did you participate in a community patriotic holiday parade, honor the POW/MIA by doing a flag folding service or candlelight vigil, or did you invite a Star family to a special Auxiliary event? If you posted those on your auxiliaries Facebook page and use the #AuxiliaryPatriotism those would meet the requirements for reporting.

Recognizing our Gold Star Families

Has your Auxiliary purchased any of President Stephanie Krueger project pins yet? \$1.00 of every pin purchased goes to Gold Star Families. Go to the Department website under Program Pins to order yours today. If your Auxiliary does not want to order pins you could make a contribution to Department for Gold Star Families instead. Put for Gold Star Families in the memo line and send it to the Department Treasurer. Report it under contributed to the sales of program pins. I will need to know how many pins or the monetary donation on your report.

As **National Americanism Ambassador Francesca Bill** stated:

If we keep patriotism in the forefront, we demonstrate a pledge to our nation's veterans, service members and their families. By exercising patriotic unity through community events such as honoring patriotic holidays, recognizing those who display the United States Flag (individuals or businesses) and educating others about America's patriotic traditions, we extend the legacy of respect for the red, white and blue and of the VFW Auxiliary.

Remember to sign up to the Departments Facebook page to see all the great things being done throughout Michigan by going to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/deptofmiauxprograms>

The 3rd quarter ends January 31st so make sure you get your reports in.

Brenda Hilderbrandt, Americanism Chairman

231-742-1351

mrshildy@gmail.com

2841 West Cleveland Road

New Era, MI 46446-9108