

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary**  
**Americanism Bulletin**  
**June, 2021**  
[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

*National Theme: Soaring Above and Beyond*

*Department Theme: Tell Our Story of Service*

I am hoping by now you have looked over your guide sheet and put all the upcoming patriotic events in your calendar. Did you have any questions? If so, feel free to reach out to me. Remember to read the bulletins at every meeting or if you can't be there having your President read it so everyone can get the information from Department and National.

**Promoting Patriotism, Flag Education and Patriotic Holiday**

June 6<sup>th</sup> is D-Day Invasion Anniversary

June 13<sup>th</sup> is Bunker Hill Day

June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day

June 14<sup>th</sup> is also Pause for the Pledge Day

June 14<sup>th</sup> is the U.S. Army's Birthday

June 23<sup>rd</sup> is the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

June 27<sup>th</sup> is PTSD Awareness Day

Is your Post/Auxiliary holding a Flag Day (June 14) ceremony? If so, did you invite the community by putting it on your social media page or in your local newspaper? Post pictures on the Program Facebook page to let us know what is going on in your community. Remember to #AuxiliaryPatriotism on your social media account and report it.

4<sup>th</sup> of July parades brings our whole community together to watch and enjoy this celebration of Independence, it's a great time to pass out flags and if the parade stops for even a few moments take the time to get the kids and adults alike to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance. Get those pictures and report. Again #AuxiliaryPatriotism

Are the business or homes in your community flying American Flags and displaying them properly? If so go and give them a Certificate of Appreciation from your Auxiliary. You can find these on the Department website under the Americanism program tab.

### **Blue, White, Silver and Gold Star Families**

Honor a Blue, White, Silver or Gold Star Family at one of your Auxiliary meetings, be sure to invite a Department Rep to this so they can bring thanks from Michigan. You should notify your local paper so they can cover the event. You are encouraged to recognize and honor these families in your community. Post pictures on the Facebook page and report it. Check out <https://www.goldstarmoms.com> for a chapter near you.

### **Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award**

Reach out to your Post Chairman to get all the information you need to distribute to the schools.

### **POW/MIA Recognition**

One idea is to ask you Auxiliary member if their sponsor was a POW or get with your Post and see if they have any members who were a POW, you could reach out to the community and invite all Veterans to a POW/MIA picnic and hold a "Missing Man Table Ceremony". I am sure the community would gather around to honor our Veterans. POW/MIA Recognition Day is the third Friday in September, so you still have time to organize a ceremony or picnic.

### **Patriotic Instructor**

Have you instructed your new members or refreshed your long-time members on Auxiliary traditions and ceremonies? There are tools to help you teach these traditions and ceremonies of the Auxiliary. *Understanding Auxiliary Traditions* video and help sheet are available on the website [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources).

You could conduct a Facebook Live or School of Instruction or produce a video demonstrating Flag etiquette. Again, remember to post to social media and add #AuxiliaryPatriotism So, reach out explain the Rituals and unique things we do at our meetings. We are teaching the next generations of Auxiliary members on what we can do to help all our Veterans.

Brenda Hilderbrandt, Americanism Chairman

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