

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Americanism Bulletin May, 2021

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Soaring Above and Beyond

Department Theme: Tell Our Story of Service

Americanism is the love of our country, *loyalty* to its institutions and ideals, the *willingness* to defend it against all enemies, and *undivided allegiance* to the Flag.

We should ensure that our organization continues to promote and educate the citizens of this great country, in what it means to have true patriotism and respect for the Flag, with all the traditions we hold sacred.

Our Americanism/Patriotic Instructor National Ambassador *Francesca Bill* wants to spread our Auxiliary traditions by using social media to promote the Americanism Program by unveiling a first-ever hashtag # to connect with our communities. Whether you are capturing patriotic unity or Auxiliary traditions in action, tag the activity and/or event using the hashtag #AuxiliaryPatriotism on social media.

The goals of the Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Program are:

- Flag Education - Respect for the Flag – Engaging the Community
- Promote Patriotism – Celebrating Patriotic Holidays
- POW/MIA Recognition
- Promoting Americanism and Connecting with the Community
- Working with the Post to promote the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award
- Recognizing our Blue, White, Silver and Gold Star Families

Promoting Patriotism

Pass out flags and flag codes at a 4th of July parade. (remember 2"x3" or larger flags for it to be included in the achievements) Hold a Memorial Day ceremony and recognize the Service Members lost while fighting for our Freedoms and invite the community.

Patriotic Holiday

Patriotic holidays are a great way for Auxiliaries to involve communities in spreading patriotism. Let everyone know that we support the United States, patriotism, veterans and their families. Mark down each of the patriotic holidays on your calendar and plan an event for your Auxiliary and/or community.

May 8th is V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day), marks the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces, therefore marking the end of WWII.

Third Saturday in May is Armed Forces Day, it is a day to honor Americans currently serving in the five branches of the U.S. military as well as the National Guard and Reserve units.

Last Monday of May is Memorial Day, it is a day to honor the men and women who died while serving in America's Armed forces.

Blue, White, Silver and Gold Star Families

America's Gold Star Families honors our fallen heroes who served in the United States Armed Forces and cares for their survivors through programs and services at no cost to the survivors.

Maybe set up a collection can at your post or pass the hat at your meetings and send it to a Blue, White, Silver or Gold Star Family.

President Stephanie Krueger's project pins profit will go to support Gold Star Families.

Flag Etiquette and Patriotic Traditions

Educate children on the proper way to honor and respect the U.S. Flag. Visit local schools, daycares and youth groups to help children learn the Pledge of Allegiance. Explain what the colors and stars on the Flag represent. Be sure to recognize their hard work with a certificate, sticker pencil or other patriotic item. Flag etiquette should be taught to those young and old

POW/MIA Recognition

Honor former Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action by having a Missing Man Table Ceremony.

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

The VFW Teacher of the Year award recognizes teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Work with your post counterpart on this goal.

Remember to look at your guide sheets and bulletins often and report your achievements as you do them so you don't get behind and forget something.

We need you to report at least quarterly. Quarters are as follows:

1st Quarter May 1 – July 31

2nd Quarter August 1 – October 31

3rd Quarter November 1 – January 31

4th Quarter February 1 – April 20

Brenda Hilderbrandt, Americanism Chairman

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