

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Americanism Bulletin
November/December 2021**
www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Soaring Above & Beyond

Department Theme: Tell Our Story of Service

Patriotic Holiday

November is National Veterans and Military Family Month

November 10th is the US Marine Corp Birthday

November 11th Armistice Day

Armistice Day is commemorated every year on 11 November to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France at 5:45 am, for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at eleven in the morning—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918

November 11th Veterans Day

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans.

December 1st Civil Air Patrol Birthday

December 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

The USS Oklahoma was moored on Battleship Row on the morning of December 7, 1941, when the Japanese torpedo bombers descended on Pearl Harbor. Several made direct hits on the ship, capsizing it and killing 429 crew members.

December 13th US National Guard Birthday

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Your Teacher of the Year winner must be received by District no later than November 16th and must reach Department by no later than December 16th.

All the completed nominations need to go through your VFW Post Commander or the Post Chairman. Then the Post will forward the completed forms to their District.

POW/MIA

Bill RCW 1.20.017 directs that every state agency, institution of higher education, and every county/city/town shall display the National League of Families POW/MIA flag along with the state and national flags on certain days each year. Efforts are appreciated for appropriately recognizing our Prisoners of War and those Missing in action. The specific federal buildings required to fly this flag daily are: White House, U. S. Capitol, Pentagon, Dept. of Veterans Affairs headquarters, every Post Office, Every major U. S. military installation, Every national cemetery, and Numerous high-profile war-related sites. Maybe you could present them with a certificate thanking them for remembering our POW/MIA. (Report how many you gave out)

Flag Education and Promoting Americanism and Connecting with the Community using #AuxiliaryPatriotism

Have you thought about teaching a scout group or school group the proper way to fold a flag or maybe the meaning of the 13 folds? Have you hosted a flag raising or a flag retirement ceremony for the community? Ask your local county or city office if you could do a ceremony one morning raising their flag, take a few members along and take pictures.

Take pictures of giving out certificates to businesses or citizens in recognition of their displaying of the US, POW/MIA flag or other displays of American Pride.

#AuxiliaryPatriotism

(Remember I need to know how many you gave out in your report)

Recognizing our Gold Star Families

1. Remember the families. Families want to know they are seen and remembered. Offer part of your heart in a card, a letter, a phone call or a visit in person. No words can take away the pain. But it will mean so much to know you care.

2. Take them out for a meal. Take a Gold Star Family to their loved one's favorite restaurant or find a restaurant that serves their loved one's favorite meal or dessert. Share a meal, a smile and maybe a tear or two.

3. Plant a plant or tree in their honor. Maybe a tree can be planted in a special place the family has set aside to go where they remember their loved one. If the family member is unable to plant it him or herself, offer to plant it for them while you're visiting.

4. Work on an art/craft project together. It could be a special ornament for a Christmas tree. It could be a picture frame. Maybe you can spend time breaking glass together to turn into something new – a symbol of how there is beauty in the brokenness. Working with your hands and being creative can often provide very real healing.

5. Light a candle. There is light in the darkest parts of our lives. Remind Gold Star Families their loved one's life will always be remembered.

6. Look at pictures of their loved one, ask about their favorite hobbies, sports teams or talents. Make space to hear stories about the loved one who died. Looking through pictures can bring up so many happy memories and can remind the family to celebrate the life that was lived instead of the death. Reach out to Gold Star Mothers and Families throughout the year. Holidays, birthdays and anniversaries of the death can be difficult. And a note or call from someone in the community can be so comforting. But don't neglect saying something on other days too. You'd be surprised when you show care on a random weekday how many surviving military families will likely say, "Thank you. I really needed to hear that today."

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