

August 2022-23

Americanism Program Promotion

Department of California

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The Americanism Program:

- ❖ Promotes Patriotism by celebrating [America's Patriotic Days](#).
- ❖ Teaches respect and proper care for the U.S. Flag.
- ❖ Brings attention to Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action by hosting POW/MIA ceremonies to both educate the public and honor these special veterans



Celebrate Patriotic Holidays!

- **Aug. 4, 2022 – Coast Guard Birthday**
- **Aug. 7, 2022 – Purple Heart Day** – A time for Americans to pause to remember and  honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice. (See attached information for a Facebook posting and coloring page)
- **Aug. 29, 2022 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday**



Up Coming Dates in September

- **Sept. 11, 2022 – Patriot Day** – An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- **Sept. 16, 2022 – POW/MIA Recognition Day**
- **Sept. 18, 2022 – Air Force Birthday**
- **Sept. 25, 2022 – Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day** – A Day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers. (See attachment)

Have you noted patriotic holidays on your calendar and planned events for your Auxiliary and community? Be sure to send in a report!

Back to School- Flag Education

With most schools starting in late August have you arranged for Back-to-School Supply drives or Flag Etiquette programs?? Stores are already putting out Halloween and Christmas items, so it must be time to head back to school! This is a great time of year to talk with your child’s or grandchild’s teacher(s) about patriotic education in the classroom.

Ask the teacher if you (and your fellow Auxiliary members) can come monthly or quarterly to talk with students about Americanism and Patriotism. The more the students see you, the more excited they will be to learn about these topics. See attachments on Flag education and Flag Etiquette to help get you started.

POW/MIA Recognition Day- POW-MIA National Recognition Day (The third Friday in September) 2022 is Friday, September 16. Take time to Honor & Remember those who were Prisoners of War (POW) and those who are Missing in Action (MIA), and their families. You could organize veteran rallies, flag ceremonies, prayer services, arrange a display of National POW/MIA Recognition Day posters at colleges or public buildings,

or promote ceremonies at War Memorials or Museums. Ask local restaurant owners if your Auxiliary can set up a missing Man Table in their restaurant. Your Auxiliary could also donate POW Flags to local businesses.

September 11 is Patriots Day, also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. It occurs each year in memory of those killed during the terrorist attacks of 2001.

Recognize and Support Star Families-

Gold Star Mothers/Families Day is the **last Sunday in September**. A day to honor mothers and families who have lost a service member in combat or on active duty. Please report the creative ways you have chosen to honor those who have made such a sacrifice for our freedoms!

Awards-

National Awards FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding patriotic community event

. • Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts a patriotic community event. Criteria and entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2023. The Department Americanism Chairman is to email National Headquarters by April 30, 2023, at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

• Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding patriotic community event. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. The Department Americanism Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Americanism Ambassador by April 30, 2023, for judging.

I hope you enjoy the last of the Dog days of summer! Stay safe and Cool!

Please send in reports and keep me informed on the wonderful events your Auxiliaries are participating in!