

September 2022
Department of California
Americanism Program



I WANT YOU!

One of our goals of the Americanism Program is to show support of POW / MIA Recognition Day. Here is some information you can use to accomplish this goal:



POW / MIA Recognition Day

In the United States, the **third Friday in September** honors National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Each year since 1989, a presidential proclamation brings the nation together to remember and honor the members of the Armed Forces who remain missing in action or are prisoners of war. This commemoration is set aside **to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families.** POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities, cemeteries, post offices and military installations. Plan ahead and check with your local facilities to make sure they have a POW/MIA flag and if not, it would be a great time to make a formal presentation of the flag to the facility. It's also a great time to do your Missing Man presentation at your joint meeting. Try to attend a POW /MIA Recognition Day Ceremony at your post or Civic Hall. See additional resources at the end of the page.

POW / MIA PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, At such time and place as we know not, there are Comrades being held against their will in hostile circumstances. Prisoners of war and those missing in action who did not return. We plead for assistance in our efforts to bring them home. Our hearts bleed for the families of these veterans, may we not forget their sacrifice and be reminded by this vacant chair of our duty toward them.

(Amen)

POW/MIA – YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

Patriotic Holiday Observances for September

V-J Day - We celebrate the victory over Japan and the end of WWII on September 2 nd . When President Harry Truman announced on August 14, 1945 that Japan had surrendered unconditionally, war weary citizens around the world erupted in celebration. The Instrument of Surrender was signed aboard the ship USS Missouri on **September 2, 1945.**



Patriot Day - September 11th of each year is a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The Flag is flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset at the White House and all U.S. Government buildings. A moment of silence is observed at 8:46 AM EST and remembrance ceremonies are performed in many locations across the country. and candlelight vigils, can be held at your Post. Flags should be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day.

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – September 17

This day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, by 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention. This document established the framework of our government and the rights and freedoms that “We the People” enjoy today. In 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as “I Am An American Day.” In 1944, “I Am An American Day” was promoted by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. On February 29, 1952, Congress moved “I Am An American Day” observation to September 17 and renamed it “Citizenship Day.” In 2004, Congress renamed the holiday “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day”. A few ways to celebrate are holding a picnic, have a trivia night, hold a constitution education class, etc.

US Air Force birthday - September 18, 1947 was the official founding date of the US Air Force.



Gold Star Mother and Family Day - The last Sunday of September was designated to honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Originally, the day was called Gold Star Mother's Day but later evolved into Gold Star Family Day. First observed in 1936, this year we will honor Gold Star Families on September 25th. The name comes from the custom of families hanging Service Flags in the window of their homes. The Service Flag has a star for each family member in the armed forces. A blue star represents a family member in active service, a silver star represents a family member wounded or injured in a war zone and a gold star represents a family member killed during active-duty and stands for sacrifice made for honor and freedom. The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was founded shortly after World War 1 by Grace Darling Seibold, who lost her son, George Vaughn Seibold, during the war. Gold Star Mothers are often socially active but are non-political. Gold Star Mother's Day was designated by Congress on June 23, 1936. In September 2012, President Barack Obama rededicated the last Sunday in Sept as "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day." Consider recognizing / honoring a Gold Star Family member on this day. One promotion would be to have a Gold Star Mother/Family dinner, cookout or invite them to your joint meeting and show recognition.

Celebrate these holidays appropriately and share facts about why we are observing these dates. Keep up the great work and let our Veterans know that their sacrifices are not in vain. Continue to promote our Americanism values and be sure to report all that your Auxiliaries are doing! #AuxiliaryPatriotism

Patriotic Instructor

As a Patriotic Instructor you are a key part of your Auxiliary fulfilling the goals. You are a great resource of knowledge, who can assist in areas such as Flag etiquette and Auxiliary Traditions. You can use your knowledge in a variety of events (i.e., celebrating patriotic holidays and recognition ceremonies) and in promoting creative ways to ignite and inspire **using hashtag #AuxiliaryPatriotism**.

Raps of the Gavel

- One (1) rap of the gavel – Attention
- Two (2) raps of the gavel – Rise
- Three (3) raps of the gavel – Be seated

Attention & Parade Rest • “Attention” in the VFW Auxiliary means hands at side, head up with eyes looking straight forward. • “Parade Rest” means the left foot is moved slightly to the side while bringing the arms to the small of the back. Clasp the left thumb in the right hand. The head is bowed slightly during prayer.

Showing Proper Respect to the Flag • During our Ritualistic meeting, the President will say “Salute” when the flags enter and leave the room, as well as when we say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the national anthem. Salute the Flag by placing the palm of the right hand flat over the heart. • During Auxiliary meetings, the heart salute shall be used at all times where the salute is used. • A member who is also a veteran may use the military salute. • When the Flag is displayed AND the national anthem is played and/or sung, all present should face the Flag and salute. • When the Flag is NOT displayed and the national anthem is played and/or sung, all present should face the music and salute. • Members should stand when the flags are moving.

Remember, as we work together with your members, the community and the VFW, we are 1 Team 1 Heartbeat with “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”.

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