

**Americanism/Patriot Instructor
Promotion 2023**

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National Ambassador, Linda Roloff, CA Department President Diana Russell-Milton and members. My apologies to all that this promotion is late. While I fully except the responsibility of this, much of the reason was caused by events beyond my control. I will try harder to have the third promotion made timely.

Thank you all for the many Americanism/Patriotic Instructor reports. They have been plentiful and most very well done. As of today (October 24, 2023) I have reviewed and accepted, moved, or rejected all reports on the “Unapproved Reports” list. Please keep up the good work. I plan to view the Unapproved Report list each Sunday to make sure your reports appear on the Department blackout sheet.

The program goals for this program are Flag Education, Promoting Patriotism, Recognizing Star Families, and Celebrating Patriotic Holidays. They have been published in every Department President's Program Book for as many years as I have obtained one. Our National Ambassador, Linda Roloff Has enhanced these goals by adding, **#MoreThanLetters** and **#AuxTribe**. **#MoreThanLetters** is a wonderful notion. We, as citizens of this great country, have learned to live on acronyms, especially three letter acronyms, i.e., CIA, FBI, DOD, DOJ to name a few. Then in each of these there are acronyms specific to our job that we understand, but outsiders do not.

Well, we as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary (VFWA) use our own. I've just used two. Three more that pop to the top of my head are POW, MIA and KIA. They all mean a great deal to us because we know exactly what they mean. However, nonmembers of our communities frequently have no idea what they mean. I could not begin to tell you how many times a person has asked me what VFW means. In addition, POW's, MIAs, and KIAs are more than letters, there is a person behind each. So, **#MoreThanLetters** is a very clever way to remind us that we need to use "words not letters" when we are referring to a post, an activity or celebration.

Flag Education is an essential ingredient to promoting Patriotism. We need to inform students, especially at the elementary and intermediate grades, Flag etiquette, the Pledge of Allegiance, what the Flag stands for, how and when to salute the Flag, and what the red, white and blue represent.

Promoting patriotism certainly includes some portions of Flag education. In addition, recognizing the proper display of the Flag is reason to present the occupant a certificate of appreciation, this includes business establishments. Remember that the flags must be in good shape, not tattered or torn and that they must be visible from the street.

Recognizing Star Mother's and Family's Day is not the only time we can recognize them. Contact your local chapter, get the names and a phone number or address and invite them to attend your breakfast or dinner. If your auxiliary does not have kitchen facilities, send cards to the families expressing our gratitude for the sacrifices they made.

Although several of the Patriotic Holidays have been celebrated, there are still several left. In 2023 there is the USMC birthday, November 10, Veterans Day (November 11), Thanksgiving (November 23), Pearl Harbor day (December 7), U.S. National Guard birthday (December 13), U.S. Space Force birthday (December 20), Christmas (December 25) and Hanukkah (December 7 thru December 15).

While I know that Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hanukkah are not particularly Patriotic Holidays, they support the National Ambassadors concept of #AuxTRIBE which I will discuss in my next promotion.



#MoreThanLetters

#AuxTribe