

**Americanism/Patriotic Instructor
Promotion #2
November 14, 2023**

**Department of California
Bill Niemeyer
Americanism Chairman/
Patriotic Instructor
vfwauxbill@gmail.com**



Americanism Personified

#MoreThanLetters #AuxTRIBE

**Program Goals
Flag Education, Promoting Patriotism,
Recognizing Star Families, and Celebrating Patriotic Holidays**

National Ambassador, Linda Roloff, Department of California President, Diana Russell-Milton, Current Line Officers, Past National President, Past Department of CA Presidents, Past District Presidents, Current District Presidents, and Current District Americanism Chairmen. I hope you are all well, and happy.

Whew, I almost made the error of using an acronym for the Past Department Presidents (PDP) and then I realized #MoreThan Letters, not acronyms, as our National Ambassador, Linda so eloquently proposed in her first promotion. So, I went back and corrected it. For several years I thought that “PDP” referred to Past District Presidents and one day a Past Department President very kindly corrected me. I tell you this actual story to show that even we, as tribe members, don’t always know what an acronym stands for.



You might recall that in my last promotion I stated that I would try to describe the term #AuxTRIBE. I will try to do so here. A tribe is a connection of commons ideals, objects language, etc. We often think of tribes being associated with the American Indian. However, Linda would prefer that we think of the tribe in terms of our auxiliaries and members of the military. When one thinks about it, it makes perfect sense. Auxiliaries have one common goal, to serve our veterans. How each auxiliary accomplishes this goal may vary to some degree but we all must follow the Bylaws and Rituals as set forth in the current issue of the National “Podium of Bylaws and Rituals.” This suggests that not only do we belong to our individual auxiliary, but we are also members of the District, Department, and National Auxiliary.

If one applies this idea to members of the military, it is easy to see how they become a member of their TRIBE. The very first thing a new recruit hears is, to forget that they have a family or friends, and forget all that they have learned in the past. BECAUSE everything they need will be issued to them and everything they will need to know will be taught to them here. After boot camp a recruit either goes to a school or is assigned to a unit and makes new friends. These become their “TRIBE.” Not having served in a foreign war I can only imagine how close buddies become, after all one depends on this person to cover their backs. Then at some point, if one is lucky, they are released and sent home. One is a new and different person. He or she leaves buddies behind and is basically left to fend for themselves. Linda would like us to consider the following:

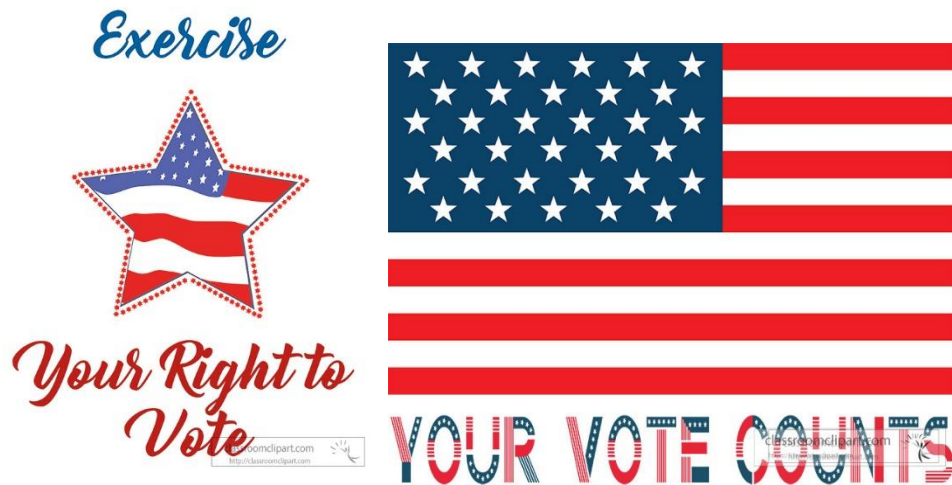
PTS

Post
Traumatic
Stress

Post
TRIBAL
Separation Dysphoria

I will close this with a brief discussion of a patriotic day that I believe is of the most importance, and yet I have never seen it in any of these promotions. It is not only a right guaranteed us by the Constitution but is truly a duty that we must engage in if we want to call ourselves patriots. That day is ELECTION Day. The last 30 words in President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg address

(November 19, 1863) state, "... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and the government of the people, BY THE PEOPLE, (emphasis added) for the people, shall not perish from this earth". It therefore stands to reason that we, the citizens of this great nation, must exercise our duty to elect those persons that we feel will best represent us or we will not be a nation by the people. I suppose it is possible that we could have a benevolent leader that allows us many freedoms, but it would still not be a government BY THE PEOPLE. So, get out



Let us continue to be a nation “of the people, by the people and for the people.”

In my next promotion I will discuss other items of interest brought forth by Ambassador Roloff. I wish you all a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving.



Loyally Submitted by,
Bill Niemeyer
Americanism Chairman/Patriotic Instructor
Department of California