

# Americanism Program

August 2024-25

Department of California

Diana Kulhanek Program Chairperson

[dirude@yahoo.com](mailto:dirude@yahoo.com)



## 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.
- ❖ Recognizes Gold Star Families



## Celebrate America's Patriotic Holidays!

- Aug. 4 – Coast Guard Birthday



- **Aug. 7, – 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 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday**

## 5 Ways to Show Your Patriotism

Beyond the flag-waving many of us want to show our patriotism in more heartfelt ways. Here are some suggestions:

- 1. Vote.** One of the best ways to honor the principles upon which our nation was built is to vote. If you can, volunteer to work at the polls during an election and you can see our system of government in action.
- 2. Support a veteran.** Do more than thank them for their service. If you know a veteran of the Vietnam or Korean wars, or even World War II, take some time to lend them a hand. Mow their lawns, offer to take them to the pharmacy, or send them a gift basket. Most would even appreciate a few minutes of meaningful conversation.
- 3. Fly the Stars and Stripes correctly.** The Federal Flag Code has strict guidelines on how to display and oversee the flag. For example, if the flag is flying at night, it must be illuminated. While you are at it, why not help a veteran show his or her pride in our nation by helping them install a flag display?
- 4. Support our national parks.** The National Park Service has always operated on a small budget, and proposed budget cuts may make the situation worse. Staff, hours, and amenities may all be reduced or eliminated. Make it a point to visit our national parks. Buy a pass for some Veterans and you can also donate to a specific park or a friend of the park organization.
- 5. Serve on a jury.** Jury duty may seem like an inconvenience at times, but it is part of what makes this nation great.



## National Symbol- **The Purple Heart**

In 1932, on what would have been Washington's 200th birthday, the Purple Heart, which recognizes injuries received at war, was brought forth in direct relation to the first military badge of merit created and given to soldiers by Washington.

The Badge of Military Merit (the original Purple Heart) was established by order of George Washington on August 7, 1782, said order including the following statement:  
"Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the purple heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen."

## How Can Your Auxiliary Celebrate **Purple Heart Day-**

- Buy and use Purple Heart printed US Stamps
- Place flowers on gravesites of recipients.
- Send greeting cards to Veterans at your local VA Hospital who earned the Purple Heart Medal
- Educate our Youth by giving coloring pages of the Purple Heart Medal (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.*



## Awards

### National Awards FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most Outstanding activity / event educating their community about lesser – known patriotic holidays.
  - Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the ten Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and / event educating their community about lesser-known patriotic holidays

Entry form required and available in MALTA Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Chairperson by March 31, 2025. The Department Americanism Program Chairperson must sign and send a copy of the winning entry form to the National Americanism Program Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

Citations will be mailed by National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning account after the 2925 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

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

