

Americanism Program

September 2024-25

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.
- ❖ Recognizes Gold Star Families

September is:

- **POW /MIA Recognition Day**
- **Patriot Day**
- **Suicide Awareness Month**
- **Service Dog Month**
- **VFW Birthday**
- **VFW Auxiliary Birthday**

9/11 Patriot Day

The September 11 attacks, commonly known as 9/11, were four coordinated Islamist terrorist suicide attacks carried out by al-Qaeda against the United States in 2001. On that morning, 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners scheduled to travel from the East Coast to California.

It's been more than two decades since 9/11. Honor and commemorate the sacrifices made that day by remembering the heroes, armed forces, first responders, and countless others' acts of service to defend our nation's freedom.

On the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, Americans of all ages and backgrounds are invited to join and lead community service projects to honor the lives and service of those we lost on September 11. Cross divides, differences, and ideologies to serve neighbors and strangers alike to build important bridges in your communities.

The 9/11 Day of Service is Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024. I encourage your Auxiliaries to engage with your community and create lasting impacts.



POW / MIA Recognition Day

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is held each year on **the third Friday of September**. 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. As part of the day of recognition, Americans are asked to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by the military men and women who are imprisoned or unaccounted for as a result of their military service.

Here are some ways to honor prisoners of war (POWs) and those missing in action (MIA):

- Fly the POW/MIA flag.
- Observe National POW/MIA Recognition Day: You can learn about the POW/MIA flag, the missing man table and ceremony, and a script for the ceremony is attached.
- Support families of the fallen: Many families of fallen soldiers have not received a folded flag, some had a burial in the rain, or never had a memorial in their loved one's name. You can support these families- invite them to your ceremony or Post for a dinner etc.

Celebrate America's Patriotic Holidays!

- **Sept. 11, 2024 – Patriot Day** – An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- **Sept 14 VFW Auxiliary was organized in Pittsburg Pennsylvania**
- **Sept 14 - Star Spangled Banner 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.
- **Sept. 18, 2024 – Air Force Birthday**
- **Sept. 20, 2024 – POW/MIA Recognition Day**
- **Sept. 29, 2024 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day** – A Day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers.
- **Sept. 29, 2024 - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Day** is celebrated at Posts and in communities around the world. It's a day devoted to the organization and its dedicated members who are so deeply committed to serving those who bravely serve this nation.



National Symbol- The Star-Spangled Banner

The Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States. The lyrics come from the "**Defense of Fort McHenry**", a poem written by American lawyer Francis Scott Key on **September 14, 1814**, after he witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British Royal Navy during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the large U, S, Flag, with 15 stars and 15 stripes, known as the Star-Spangled Banner, flying triumphantly above the fort after the battle.



Gold Star Mother and Family Day

The **last Sunday in September** was designated to honor those who lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The name comes from the custom of families hanging service flags in their windows. 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 the sacrifice made for honor and freedom. Consider recognizing / honoring a Gold Star family member on this day. One promotion would be to host a family for dinner, BBQ or invite them to your meeting and show them recognition.

Celebrate these patriotic 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 American 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. Start the year off by reviewing the RAPS of the gavel with your members.

- 1 rap of the gavel – Attention
- 2 raps of the gavel- Rise
- 3 raps of the gavel- Be seated.

“Summer loving’, had me a blast. Summer Lovin’, happened so fast.” As we say goodbye to Summer.... Let’s get busy with September events !



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.

