

# Americanism July 2024

## Department of California

Diana Kulhanek Chairman

619-206-7828

dirude@yahoo.com



CONGRATULATIONS Americanism Chairpersons!

Not only do you have a fun job but also an especially important one – you get to spread excitement about the pride you have for our Country, our Flag, and our National Anthem!

***“Americanism is an unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty and posterity.”***

### The Americanism Program:

- Promotes Patriotism by **celebrating America’s Patriotic Days**.
- Teaches respect and proper care for the U.S. Flag.
  - **Flag Education for Kids**
- 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.
  - **Missing Man Table Ceremony**
- Recognizes Gold Star Families



The Fourth of July celebrates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Declaration announced the political separation of the 13 North American colonies from Great Britain. If you are participating in 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities handout red, white and blue beads, American flags and other patriotic trinkets. Show your patriotism and proudly wear the Red , White and Blue!



## History of our National Symbols:

**The flag** of the United States is a symbol of freedom before which Americans recite the **Pledge of Allegiance**. The flag's 13 red and white stripes represent the 13 original colonies. Its 50 white stars on a blue background represent the 50 states.

Each of the colors on the flag has a meaning:

- Red: valor and bravery
- White: purity and innocence
- Blue: vigilance, perseverance, and justice

A star is added to the flag when a new state joins the United States. The flag was last modified on July 4, 1960, when Hawaii was incorporated as a state.



### Patriotic Instructor

Your job is a vital one to our organization and keeping its traditions. Remember, the freedoms we enjoy today and take for granted are constantly at risk. Our freedom is in place only because of the sacrifices of our military heroes, the men and women who served and are still serving.

As a Patriotic Instructor, you must instruct our auxiliary members on how they are to stand at attention; the proper way to salute; the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance; and what parade rest means. And we must make the Public aware of upcoming patriotic holidays and events.

New members often feel they are left out and do not know exactly what to do. It is your job as Patriotic Instructor to help them feel comfortable by sharing with them a copy of the "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" The video is also available on the website at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources). You should take to time to understand the VFW Auxiliary Ritual and Bylaws and the Federal Flag Code.

As Patriotic Instructor, you will take part in your auxiliary meetings and recite the following:

**"Let us be ever mindful of our duties as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, to see that our flag is never desecrated and to teach the people of this land what that means and to see that all are instructed in the Pledge to the Flag."**

. You are serving an especially important part. We need to keep our patriotism growing and alive!

## **NATIONAL AWARDS: Awards for Auxiliaries**

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about lesser-known Patriotic Holidays.

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about lesser-known Patriotic Holidays.

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

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio