

Americanism / Patriotic Instructor

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Re: February Americanism / Patriotic Instructor Promotion

Hello VFW Auxiliary Department of California,

I would like to thank everyone for their great efforts; everyone has done an excellent job promoting and participating in our Americanism / Patriotic Instructor Program. It's truly an honor being the VFW Auxiliary of California's State Representative to promote this program. I would like to ask each one of you, why is Patriotism Important to us? Patriotism Supports Democracy, Freedom and Justice. It encourages vigilance against threats to democratic freedoms. It supports the quest for justice, ensuring that all citizens are treated fairly and it calls for active defense of rights and liberties, even when it is challenging to do so. In this respect, patriotism can be seen as a form of accountability.

Patriotism drives greater participation in volunteering. Often it manifests their love for their country through acts of service and volunteerism. These selfless acts of giving back are seen as building blocks for stronger communities, which, in turn, contribute to a stronger nation. Patriotism fuels honor for military service and sacrifices. On a practical level, support for service members can take various forms such as Veteran support programs aimed at assisting with healthcare (taking a Veteran to their Dr appointments), education (making conversation with a veteran about education

activities that might be going on in the community) and employment (letting veterans know if there are any employment opportunities or job fairs in their areas).

Encouragement from the community through letters and care packages to those that are currently serving will bring back a sense of home. Let's continue discussing patriotism openly and thoughtfully. By understanding its significance, we learn more about our nation's heart and collective spirit as its people. As I close, please be mindful of our country's love in all its forms and to the conversations that help us understand patriotism and honor its richness. May God Bless you all, our veterans and God Bless America.

Here are some dates to remember:

National Observances

- **National Freedom Day (Feb 1):** Commemorates President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the joint resolution that later became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- **Super Bowl 60 (Feb 8):** Takes place in the San Francisco Bay Area, at Levi's Stadium. New England Patriots & Seattle Seahawks
- **Presidents' Day (Feb 16):** Officially Washington's Birthday, this federal holiday is marked by parades and civic reflection nationwide.
- **Iwo Jima Day (Feb 19):** Remembers the 1945 landing of U.S. Marines on the island of Iwo Jima during WWII.
- **U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Birthday (Feb 19):** Honors the service and sacrifice of Coast Guard Reservists.

Best wishes,

Wm. Steven Medellin Sr.
Americanism Program Chairman
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