

# AMERICANISM PROGRAM

## Program Goals

Flag Education - Promote #AuxiliaryPatriotism

POW/MIA Recognition - Star Family Recognition

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"Unity"*

*"1 Family - 1 Voice - 1 Team "*

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"From Our Roots to Our Branches*

*Extending Service to Our Veterans"*

"Americanism", can have two meanings, depending on the context. Let's explore what it means for both American citizens and immigrants.

For American Citizens: Americanism represents the core values and principles that define the United States. It's a sense of patriotism, a belief in liberty and democracy, and a commitment to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution it's about cherishing American traditions and symbols, like the bald eagle for the Fourth of July.

For Immigrants: Americanism can represent the opportunity to embrace a new life and culture. It's about pursuing the American dream – belief that anyone can achieve success through hard work and determination. It's about learning American customs and traditions, language and contributing to country's diversity.

### ***Some Key Aspects of Americanism:***

**Equality:** The idea that everyone has equal rights and opportunities, regardless of background.

**Liberty:** The freedom to think, speak, and act as you please, within the bounds of the law.

**Democracy:** A form of government where the people hold power and elect representatives.

**Individualism:** The value placed on personal achievement and independence.

**Melting Pot:** The idea that America is a nation formed by immigrants from all over the world.

#### *Americanism for American citizens:*

- Voting in elections and participating in civic life.
- Respecting the national anthem and flag.
- Serving in the military at home and abroad or the Peace Corps.
- Helping others in your community.

#### *Americanism for the Military:*

- Refers to a strong sense of patriotism and loyalty to the United States, its ideals, and its institutions.
- It encompasses a willingness to defend the country against all threats and commitment to upholding the Constitution.
- Emphasizes values like honor, duty, respect, and service.
- These values are central to military culture and guide the conduct of the soldiers.

# AMERICANISM PROGRAM

## *Americanism for immigrants:*

- Learning English and American civics.
- Obeying the laws and paying taxes.
- Appreciating American culture and History.
- Contributing your unique talents and skills to the county.

## *Americanism with our Auxiliaries:*

- Unify our Brothers and Sisters.
- Protect the peace at our Post
- Proudly wear our Auxiliary garments
- Learn and practice the VFW Auxiliary rituals
- Be there for each other

## **Promoting Patriotic Holiday...**

Independence Day – July 4th	National Vietnam War Veterans Day – March 29th
Patriot Day – September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Loyalty Day – May 1 <sup>st</sup>
POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September	Armed Forces Day – Third Saturday in May
Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day – Last Sunday in September	Memorial Day – May 30 <sup>th</sup> (traditional)
Veteran's Day – November 11th	Flag Day – June 14
Pearl Harbor Day – December 7th	

Americanism is a work in progress, and its meaning can evolve over time. It's about balancing national pride with inclusivity and creating a society where everyone feels welcome and respected.

Carol Franker  
Americanism Chairman  
[Qcarol4u@gmail.com](mailto:Qcarol4u@gmail.com)

## **AMERICANISM**

### **DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES**

1. Award for most outstanding event recognizing a lesser celebrated Patriotic Holiday to one Auxiliary in each Membership group.

Entry form required and available on Dept. Website and 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.

2. One Award in each Membership Class for Most Outstanding Flag Education presented to a school or public event

## **NATIONAL 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.