

## AMERICANISM PROGRAM PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

**Flag Education • Promote #AuxiliaryPatriotism • POW/MIA Recognition • Star Family Recognition**

What is Americanism? “Americanism is an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.” Open the QR code below to see more about Americanism.

Americanism to me is the love of land, freedom, loyalty, diversity, family and truth. We have had to fight and protect everything in one way or another. Without the men and woman who defended us we would not be the great country we have today. Most didn't think twice of defending against our enemies to protect every generation of families in the past and present and future. As being a part of our Auxiliary, it is an honor I have received from my grandfather. He was in the Army and proudly served in World War II. There is so much respect deserved. So today, together we honor, learn, educate, remember and show how we are an American by proper etiquette. More information can be found on Malta and through reading our VFW Auxiliary Podium Book. Through our service in this organization, Americanism and Patriotism can be expressed in the forefront of our lives. **“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free”**, National Presidents Theme. Let's keep going strong for the generations to come!

How do we show Americanism?

**POW/ MIA:** In remembering the sacrifices made in defending our country and allowing our freedom. **Americans will never forget; “Until they are all home”** This year Friday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is Remembrance Day. “This day is a solemn occasion dedicated to honoring the bravery and sacrifice of those who have endured captivity or remain unaccounted for while serving our nation”. **Prisoners Of War/ Missing In Action** is how we remember the Veterans and support their families and uphold the values of honor and respect for all who have served. Does your community have any local Veterans? Can you raise money to help support what they may need. Hurricane season in Florida is coming, remember a wellness check or just a smile and a hello goes a long way. Is there a way to help prepare for what disaster may come. Remind members to read **Action Corps** to see if any have returned home and current information that we may want to share and support. Our Goal is **“Building Bridges for our Veterans”** Department President's Theme for this year.

Do you know what a **“Star Family”** is? We honor **Gold** star families on the last Sunday in September. **Gold Star Families:** families of service members who have died in the line of duty. **Blue Star** are the families of active-duty service members. **Silver** refer to the loved ones of military service members who have been wounded, fallen ill, or suffered injuries during their service to the nation and the **Green** or **White Star** are the families who has experienced a military loss through suicide from any branch of service. Let us not forget the first responder's also fall under the White Star Families. Taking the time to know your members will make your Auxiliary stronger though Communication. Sending flowers means a lot. How about dropping off a bag of candy to the ER staff to get them through the day. The saying goes “it's the little things that make the difference”.

**September 11, 2001**, we as a country were targeted by terrorist. Our life as Americans tested. There were many lives lost with so many heroes who stepped in without a second glance. Those of us who were living through fear while watching and seeing tragedies have that imprinted in our memories, however are fading as time passes. We need to learn, teach and remember so the lives lost cannot be in vain. As a VFW Auxiliary how do you remember, share the most activity and/or event displaying or educating on remembrance this year.

**Flag Day is June 14<sup>th</sup> 2025.** You as a member have the opportunity to give our Community and Students the knowledge on why we fly our flag, are you flying the flag correctly and or in the correct order?, do they know when a Flag needs to be retired?, how do we show respect for the flag?, why does the Flag have 13 stripes, and 50 stars? By sharing with your community the knowledge about the importance of OUR flag we keep the generations growing by educating the youth of proper etiquette. They will be our future leadership. For more information about the Flag etiquette, the history of our Flag and to read the United States Flag code visit: [wfw.org/community/flag-etiquette](http://wfw.org/community/flag-etiquette).

We should be working also with the teachers, they play an important role and the more we support the better our children will become. We have scholarships to help drive the children to become better individuals, did you know we also give teachers awards? For Information visit: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year>, As a VFW Auxiliary we can together share the story.

Show your Patriotism and Americanism Proudly! We live in a technology-based world that is full of information. Promote Patriotic and even the lesser observed days on Facebook to keep them in the forefront of our minds. Use the **# AuxiliaryPatriotism** when posting and sharing on social media. MALTA is our go-to for Patriotic Holidays. Have events to educate the community, invite your Veterans to participate. How about Flags across America, honoring the Veterans with flags, wreaths, and cleaning up at local cemeteries. Most members love to hand out Poppies and have a conversation. We should Love what we do and who we do it for!

**Patriotic Instructors:** Remember, you are the ones who train our members in our traditions. Teach our members the proper way to stand at attention, how to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and how to stand during our prayers.



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## **DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

1. One award in each membership class for the Most outstanding activity and/or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2026 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, 2026 for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

2. One award in each membership class for the most outstanding commemoration for 9/11 Patriot Day.

## **National Awards**

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.
2. • Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.