



Americanism

August 2026



Department President's Theme
"Growing Stronger for Our Veterans"

National President's Theme
"Serving America's Heroes"

Program Goals

Flag Education, POW/MIA Recognition, Star Family Recognition

POW/MIA display and presentation guidelines center on honoring missing service members through strict flag precedence and the solemn "Missing Man Table" ceremony.

Flag Display Protocol

- **Single Flagpole:** The POW/MIA flag must fly directly below and be no larger than the United States flag.
- **Separate Flagpoles:** The U.S. flag must always be placed to the right (the observer's left) of all other flags.
- **Mandatory Dates:** Public law mandates displaying the flag on six national observances: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day.
- **Indoor Presentation:** Official indoor sets (like the Sunward Flag Presentation Set) feature an 8-foot oak pole paired with a weighted brass stand and ceremonial nylon flags

The Missing Man Table Ceremony

The table is set for a single person to represent the frailty of a lone prisoner and symbolize their absence.

- **White Tablecloth:** Symbolizes the purity of their intentions when answering the nation's call.
- **Empty Chair:** Signifies that the service member is not present.
- **Single Red Rose / Yellow Ribbon:** Reminds families and friends of the ongoing hope for return.
- **Slice of Lemon & Salt:** Represents the bitter fate of captivity and the tears of waiting families.
- **Inverted Glass:** Indicates that the missing cannot toast with the attendees that evening.
- **Candle:** Symbolizes the enduring light of hope.

August 1: Air Force Day – Commemorates the establishment of the U.S. Air Force.

August 4: Coast Guard Day – Celebrates the founding of the U.S. Coast Guard in 1790.

August 7: Purple Heart Day – Honors the men and women who were wounded or killed in combat.

August 10: Agent Orange Awareness Day
August 14: Navajo Code Talkers Day
August 19: National Aviation Day

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