

Patriotic Instructor

August 2026

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

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

The VFW Auxiliary uses meeting rituals to honor fallen veterans, promote patriotism, ensure orderly meetings, and maintain organizational unity. These structured traditions—such as specific gavel raps, opening/closing prayers, and flag salutes—keep members aligned with the group's historical values and mission.

The Auxiliary observes these traditions to accomplish several goals:

- **Honoring Fallen Comrades:** Rituals such as opening and closing the Bible and specific chaplain prayers treat the meeting space as sacred ground to remember veterans who have passed away.
- **Promoting Patriotism:** Standardized practices—such as the **heart salute** to the Flag or military salute for veteran members—demonstrate unwavering respect for the country and the flag.
- **Ensuring Order and Efficiency:** Specific traditions like using specific **raps of the gavel** (e.g., one rap for attention, two to rise, three to sit) and requiring members to address the President prevent chaos and keep business discussions on track.
- **Fostering Continuity:** Following a documented format (like the Traditional or Contemporary Agendas outlined in the VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition) helps members and new posts stay united under the same national values.

While the traditional floor work helps maintain these historical bonds, local chapters can opt for "Roundtable" meetings that omit the strict rituals if they need to prioritize time efficiency.

August 3rd:

National Friendship Day

August 10th:

National S'mores Day

August 15th:

National Relaxation Day

August 30th:

National Beach Day



Reference the PODIUM EDITION BYLAWS AND RITUAL for more details

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