

Patriotic Instructor

Program Goals:

- **Flag Etiquette and Education**
- **Ritual and Floor work**
- **Meeting Protocol**
- **Promote Patriotism**
- **Patriotic Days of Observation**
- **Recognition**

Department President's Theme

"Growing Stronger for Our Veterans"

National President's Theme

"Serving America's Heroes"

Let's talk about being a Patriotic Instructor and get back to the Basics!

Patriotic Instructors often work closely with the Americanism Chairman or may hold both positions simultaneously to promote the "**Stars and Stripes**" within the community.

The VFW Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor is an appointed officer responsible for promoting patriotism, teaching good citizenship, and educating members on proper Flag etiquette. They ensure ceremonies follow the VFW Auxiliary Ritual, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and often assist with flag ceremonies in the community. They also maintain records of patriotic days and foster appreciation for American traditions.

Responsibilities:

- **Flag Etiquette Education:** Instructs members and the community on the proper use, salute (palm over heart), and display of the U.S. Flag according to the Federal Flag Code.
- **Ritual & Floor Work:** Assists the President during meetings, ensuring ceremonies and floor work align with the VFW Auxiliary Ritual.
- **Education Programming:** Initiates programs for observing patriotic days, educating members on the Federal Flag Code, and fostering Americanism.
- **Community Outreach:** Promotes patriotic education in schools and communities, such as leading Wreaths Across America or flag retirement ceremonies.
- **Membership Education:** Educates members on proper demeanor during meetings.
- **Recognition:** Encourage the display of the flag by presenting Certificates of Appreciation to community businesses and members.

Key Duties:

- Shall see that the meeting room is in keeping with the Ritual.
- Shall assist in the floor work ceremonies.
- Shall instruct the members in the proper use of and salute to the Flag.
- Shall see that the pledge to the Flag is given properly and that due respect to the Flag is observed at all times by members.
- Shall maintain a record of all patriotic days and initiate programs for their proper observance and perform such other duties as the President may require.
- Shall instruct members how to stand at attention, parade rest, etc.
- May read some portion of the Bylaws at every meeting.
- May carry the Flag in events and parades.

Promote Patriotism:

- Mentor and educate Members on the meaning and history of national symbols, traditions, and ceremonies along with proper etiquette related to the organization and the American Flag.

U.S. Flag Education:

A large part of Americanism and being the Patriotic Instructor is U.S. Flag Education. U.S. Flag education helps individuals learn about the flag's meaning, significance, and how to properly handle and care for it.

- Displaying the Flag
- POW/MIA Protocol
- Flag Disposal
- Official U.S. Flag Code Guide: The U.S. Flag code is a codification of the rules and customs for displaying and using the American flag. The "flag code" is the federal law that sets fourth guidelines for the appearance and display of the U.S. flag by private citizens.
- Order of Precedence
- Correct Method of Folding the U.S. Flag
- U.S. Flag History

Star Family Recognition:

You are encouraged to recognize and honor these families in your community.

- Blue Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a blue star for each family member serving in the United States Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities.
 - Blue Star Mothers' Day is February 1.
- Gold Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a gold star that represents a family member who died during military operations.
 - Gold Star Mother's & Families Day is the last Sunday in September.
 - Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5.
- Silver Star Families can display a flag or banner with a blue, an outer red and inner white border, with a silver star that represents a family member who was injured, wounded or became ill during or as a result of combat.
 - Silver Star Service Banner Day is May 1.

Resources for Patriotic Instructors:

- **MALTA Member Resources:** Access to program books, entry forms, and "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" guides, including videos, pamphlets, and tips.
- **VFW Store:** Patriotic Instructor cards and other educational materials.
- **VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual:** The official guide for ceremonies.

I hope you are excited about the 2026-2027 year!!

Let's Serve our Heroes by Growing a Stronger Auxiliary for our Veterans.

Lanaie Reed
37763 Poole Rd
Hilliard, FL 32046
AmericanismFL@gmail.com
#AmericanismFL

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARD

An award will be given to the most outstanding Patriotic Instructor in each membership class.

The entry may be for either District or Auxiliary and must be written and submitted to the Dept. Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2027.

There will be no form.

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