

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

It is our efforts promoting the Americanism Program in our communities that will continue to make American Pride and Patriotism grow. It is up to us to set an example for our neighbors, by flying your Flag every day. Just see how contagious it can be and then surprise them with a certificate for showing their pride and patriotism.

It is our duty to teach our communities and our younger generations to respect our Flag. Consider asking a teacher if you could volunteer to teach the Pledge of Allegiance or bring a Veteran to their classroom to speak on the meaning of patriotism. Reward our youth for learning proper Flag etiquette or how to fold our Flag.

We need to praise and recognize our educators who instruct our youth of true patriotism. So, complete this project by nominating a teacher for his or her promotion of patriotism and nominate them for the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. You can obtain more information on the nominating process by visiting the VFW website at www.vfw.org.

New this year, the entire month of **September, 2011** has been declared as **Suicide Awareness Month**. The number of suicides within our military is rising at an alarming rate. Every Auxiliary member is being asked to wear a **teardrop sticker** every day during the month of September, which can be download and printed on your own sticker back paper (Avery 8165 will work for inkjet printers) from the National Ladies Auxiliary website www.ladiesauxvfw.org. There are sixteen teardrops to a page. Ask your members to cut out the teardrops and wear them every day in September to bring attention to the fact that we are losing active duty personnel and veterans each and every day to suicide. Encourage your members to hand out these teardrops to citizens within their communities to further educate everyone about this serious situation. Let your members, as well as your communities, know that our own VFW National Home has established a Help Hotline at 1-800-313-4200. Please get this information out to the Veterans within your Districts and Posts and all active military personnel and family members.

Our second goal this year will be to have every Auxiliary participate in the “**Veterans Oral History Project**.” The Library of Congress in Washington D. C. has requested that all veterans either audio or videotape record their memories. We all have veterans within our own individual communities making this an easy way to participate. These stories are too important to be lost and what an honor each of our veterans will feel if we just ask them if we could interview them or videotape their service memories. Complete kits that tell you what to do from the beginning to its completion are available for free by either visiting their website at www.loc.gov/vets or by calling 1-888-371-5848.

Starting this month, go to www.ladiesauxvfw.org under Junior Girls and find the JUMP (Junior Unit Merit Program) manual. It explains the requirements for each badge, the form needed to submit to National Headquarters to get the badges and how to earn them. Under Americanism, the Girls can earn the **Stars & Stripes Badge** by completing all three of the following:

Say the Pledge of Allegiance with the proper heart salute
Know the symbolism of the U.S. Flag's stars, strips and colors
Know how to properly fold a U.S. Flag

September 11, 2011, will be the 10th anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and United Airline Flight 93, We, as Americans, must never forget that day in our history. I am asking each Auxiliary, this year, to get involved in your community and make sure we never forget the importance of remembering this day. Request your Auxiliaries to implement a designated time for a moment of silent prayer.

Our VFW Ladies Auxiliary National President, Gwen Rankin, will be attending the 125th Birthday Celebration of the Statue of Liberty on **October 28, 2011**. Each year our National President gives a gift for the preservation and beautification of the grounds to the Park. This will be a wonderful event you won't want to miss. Mark your calendars. All Auxiliary Sisters are invited to take part in this exciting celebration.

Remember to hold a public POW/MIA ceremony on **September 16, 2011**, the 3rd Friday of September. Most Americans have never even heard of or seen a Missing Man Table or a POW/MIA ceremony. Be sure to encourage your Auxiliaries to jointly host a POW/MIA Recognition Day with their Posts. Invite members of your community to attend as well. This would also be a great time to consider donating POW/MIA flags to your community.

We need to make sure the citizens of our communities never forget the sacrifices of our military men and women. It is for them that we are **“Being the Best We Can Be For Our Veterans”**.

Awards for Mid Winter

Award to the first District chairman to have their District 100% reported.

Citation to an Auxiliary that participated in National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

Citation to Auxiliaries and Districts who held or participated in POW/MIA program.

Citation to all Auxiliaries that are 100% participated and reported by Dec. 31, 2011.

June Convention Awards

Auxiliary:

Award for best promotion of an Americanism Program

Award for best promotion of Suicide Awareness Month and the teardrop sticker

Citation to an Auxiliary that participates in the Veterans History Project.

Citation for most American Flags given out (must be at least 2x3)

Citation for most unique promotion of teaching patriotism to students.

District:

Award for best overall promotion of Americanism Program

Award for best overall promotion of POW/MIA program

Jr. Girls Units:

Award most unique program promotion of Americanism Program

Citation for being 100% reported in Americanism

Citation to all units who participated in POW/MIA and Founders Day program.

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