

AMERICANISM

Cherie Dysard, Chairman
611 Mill Rd, Clearfield, PA 16830
Phone (814) 496 - 1940
cherpavfwaux@gmail.com

Across the country, citizens display flags to symbolize that **Every Day is Veterans Day** and demonstrate that love **From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans**.

Americanism is an unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas, a desire to secure the blessing of liberty and posterity and an undivided allegiance to the Flag. As a member of the Auxiliary, it is our duty to show our patriotism by supporting veterans, their families, volunteering in our communities, promoting patriotism and flying the American Flag.

The VFW Store has many inexpensive patriotic items available for purchase. Consider using them in your school and community activities. vfwstore.org

This year, the primary focus of the Americanism program will be:

- Flag Education
- Promoting Patriotism
- POW/MIA Remembrance
- Patriotic Instruction

FLAG EDUCATION

It's important to teach Auxiliary members and citizens the proper etiquette for displaying and handline the American flag. Work with schools and local community groups to provide training and spread awareness of flag etiquette. Recognize community establishments who properly display their US flag. Establish a program for the respectful disposal of worn or damaged flags at your VFW post and/or within your community.

vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette

PROMOTING PATRIOTISM

Educate Auxiliary members and citizens about the meaning and importance of patriotic symbols and traditions. Spotlight the National Holidays and Branch of Service Birthdays in social media campaigns or events. Recognize Star Families within your community.

Use #AuxiliaryPatriotism.

POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE

Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) Remembrance Day is a solemn day dedicated to remembering those that have endured captivity or remain unaccounted for while serving our country. Hold a ceremony on this day.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION

The Auxiliary's Patriotic Instructor is often an overlooked position, yet it plays an important part in educating our members about the significance of our national symbols and the Auxiliary ritual. Patriotic Instructors at every level are encouraged to hold training sessions within their auxiliaries and their communities to maintain the values and traditions that we stand for.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER PROGRAM

Each year, the VFW recognizes three exceptional teachers – one elementary teacher, one junior high teacher and one high school teacher – for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and instill patriotism in their students. Consider nominating a local teacher in your community.

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-andeducation/teacher-of-the-year>

RED SHIRT CHALLENGE

This year, Auxiliaries in Pennsylvania are encouraged to participate in a Red Shirt challenge. Send pictures or post pictures on social media of your Auxiliary members wearing red shirts to be entered into a special drawing at Pennsylvania's mid-winter and annual conventions.

Use #PARedShirt

NATIONAL AMERICANISM PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most outstanding activity or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.
- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals. (VA & non-VA facilities)

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Americanism – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM CITATIONS

1. A citation to the Auxiliary with the most outstanding activity or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.
2. A citation to the Auxiliary with the best promotion of any patriotic day or branch of service birthday.
3. A citation to the Auxiliary who presented the most Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificates of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag Citations to citizens/businesses within their local community in recognition of their displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA Flag and/or other displays of American pride.
4. Special drawing at mid-winter convention and annual convention for all auxiliaries who participate in the red shirt challenge and share a picture of their members wearing red shirts.

ALL OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES ETC. TO NATIONAL AND DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.