

Americanism/Patriotic Instructor

Amy Peterson, Department Chairman
12 N Bennett St, Bradford, PA 16701
814-331-1142 / thepetersons@atlanticbb.net

“True patriotism is not manifested in short, frenzied bursts of emotion. It is the tranquil, steady dedication of a lifetime.” —Adlai Stevenson

Using our **“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”** we continue this year with Patriotism that comes from within. We display our pride and honor through our hearts, our dedication and loyalty to those who sacrificed and gave us the freedoms we have been given. **“Respect...Honor...Remember”** our Flag, our Country, our Veterans....
Always!

Americanism 2022-2023:

1. **Educating** the community, especially youth, on Flag etiquette and respect. Reach out to sports groups, schools, libraries and more.... share the meaning of the Stars and Stripes, demonstrate Flag displays, sharing the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the National Anthem. Host a school of instruction, in person or virtually, on Flag folding or Flag retirement ceremonies. Present Citations to a local business or organization for an Outstanding Flag Display.
2. **Promote and recognize patriotic holidays and/or branch of service birthdays** and why these special dates should be remembered. Host family fun days to celebrate, opening the possibility of new members and youth to educate.
3. Hold ceremonies to educate and honor Veterans who are and were **POW/MIAs**. Promote the “Missing Man Ceremony” at Post homes and Patriotic events.
4. **Recognize and honor our Gold Star, Silver Star, White Star and Blue Star Families**. Educate the community as to what each Star Family represents.
5. Promote Americanism using today’s new technology and social media. Capture moments, share, promote....and remember to use **#AuxiliaryPatriotism & #AuxiliaryPatriotismPA** on social media. Think “outside the box” and engage with new members to carry on traditional values with fresh ideas!
6. Honor a teacher for an outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism to students. Nominating him/her for the **Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award** is the best way to show your appreciation! Information is found at vfw.org/community/youth-and-education on the National VFW website.

Patriotic Holidays

- National Vietnam War Veterans Day – March 29
- Loyalty Day – May 1
- Armed Forces Day – Third Saturday in May
- Memorial Day - May 30 (Traditional)
- Flag Day – June 14
- Independence Day – July 4
- Patriot Day – September 11
- POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September
- Gold Star Mother's & Family Day – Last Sunday in September
- Veterans Day – November 11
- Pearl Harbor Day – December 7

Branch of Service Birth Dates:

- U.S. Army – June 14, 1775
- U.S. Marine Corps – November 10, 1775
- U.S. Navy – October 13, 1775
- U.S. Air Force – September 18, 1947
- U.S. Coast Guard – August 4, 1790
- U.S. National Guard – December 13, 1636
- U.S. Space Force – December 20, 2019

THANKING YOU & YOUR AUXILIARY FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THIS PROGRAM!

National Americanism Awards for Auxiliaries

*Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts a patriotic community event. Criteria and entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Chairman by March 31, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

*Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding patriotic community event. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Department Americanism Awards

1. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the most outstanding promotion of Patriotic Holidays and/or branch of service birthdays in the community. (Must send description and/or photos to the Department Chairman.)
2. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the best POW/MIA promotion/recognition service. (Must send description and/or photos to the Department Chairman.)
3. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the best promotion of Flag Education in the community. (Must send description and/or photos to the Department Chairman.)
4. Citation to the top three VFW Auxiliaries who distributed the most American Flags.
5. Citation to the top three VFW Auxiliaries who distributed the most POW/MIA Flags.
6. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the best recognition of Blue, White, Gold and/or Silver Star Families. (Must send description and/or photos to Department Chairman.)

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