

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES\*

**South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary  
Youth Activities  
Bulletin September 2024**

**National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*  
Department Theme: *United in Service for Veterans***

NEWS BREAK: There have been changes made to the “*Illustrating America Art Contest*”:

- There is a new requirement that the student include their name and grade on the back of the art entry.
- There are less restrictive matting requirements.
- There are changes in the maximum dimensions of the entries.

It is a perfect time to contact school leadership with information about our “*Illustrating America*” contest. There are three (3) grade divisions – K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 with first, second and third place awards in each division. The information on the “*Illustrating America*” contest is available by clicking on the link on this program section.

Don’t let this month’s wonderful opportunities to include Youth in serving our Veterans get past you. September is Library Card Sign Up Month, September 6<sup>th</sup> is National Read a Book Day. Check with your local public library and your school libraries regarding The Patriotism Through Literacy book list. Have your Auxiliary purchase and donate one or more books to increase the availability of patriotic books in your community.

Perhaps your Auxiliary can arrange to host and participate in a reading hour to promote one of the Youth Activities Program goals .. Youth READING or Veterans and Veterans READING to Youth. Take pictures and promote the event on your Facebook page or website. Make sure to reward the children with R.A.P. (Random Acts of Patriotism) cards for their participation.

Prisoner of War – Missing In Action (POW-MIA) Day is September 20<sup>th</sup>. Yet another time (in addition to the upcoming Veterans Day) for your Auxiliary members to help educate our Youth within the schools. Remember, these are the future leaders of our country and we must instill patriotism and service to Active Military, Veterans and their families.

I have added another Youth Activities resource to our website – “All American Activity Book.” Yes, I am using a publication put together by the Disabled American Veterans organization. BUT, don’t all of these veterans service organizations have basically the same purpose of service to our military, veterans and their families? Let’s join forces whenever possible to better promote our goals.

Department Chairman

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