

GENERAL ORDERS SEPTEMBER 2025
AMERICANISM
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Department Theme: Saluting Our Heroes

The following definition of “Americanism” was originated in February 1927: “Americanism is an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.”

Important dates to educate others about this month include:

September 2. V-J Day or Victory over Japan Day - marks the day when Japan surrendered in World War II, bringing the war to an end. It is celebrated in the United States on September 2, as this is the date the formal surrender document was signed in 1945.

September 11. Patriot Day –a day of honor for those killed in the terrorist attacks of 2001. Ways to tribute the heroes and victims who lost their lives include flying the U.S. flag at half-staff, taking a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 am, Eastern Standard Time, which is the time the first airplane struck the World Trade Center or participate in a remembrance ceremony or candlelight vigil. This day is also recognized as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, which encourages people to participate in some sort of community service.

September 13. Uncle Sam Day – this day celebrates the man behind the image of Uncle Sam, who supplied meat to soldiers during the War of 1812. Uncle Sam is a symbol of American strength and idealism.

September 17. Constitution Day & Citizenship Day - On 9/17/1787 the Constitution was signed by 39 delegates at the U.S. Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

September 18. Air Force’s birthday – 1947.

September 19, 2025. POW / MIA Recognition Day - we honor the commitments & sacrifices every prisoner of war has made and those still missing in action. It is specified by law the POW/MIA flag be flown on this date over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices, and military installations. One way to educate others is by conducting a Missing Man Table Ceremony and placing it in a prominent location in your community. Information about The Missing Man Table Ceremony is located on the SD VFW auxiliary website under the Americanism program or in MALTA.

September 28, 2025. Gold Star Mother's & Family Day - for people to recognize and honor mothers and families who have lost a military service member while serving the United States Armed Forces in the line of duty or in support of military actions. Do you have any Gold Star Mother's or Families in your community? You can honor these families in your community by hosting luncheons or sending cards!

September 29. VFW Day – celebrates the hard work and sacrifice of veterans who have served the United States.

School has started for most South Dakota communities! I encourage you to reach out and make contact with your local school district in order to “open the door” to a year of promoting and educating students. For most schools, Homecoming parades will be held this month, which is an excellent opportunity to display American Pride, as well as hand out information such as proper flag etiquette.

I encourage you to check out our websites: <https://vfwauxsd.org> and <https://vfwauxiliary.org>; you can find a lot of great information and ideas!