

GENERAL ORDERS FEBRUARY 2026  
AMERICANISM  
DEPT CHAIRMAN MICHELLE PAYNE  
PO BOX 8; PLANKINTON, SD 57368  
605-770-3693  
[chellepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:chellepayne@hotmail.com)

**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."*

Welcome to February 2026! Hopefully things have settled down a bit for you after the holidays! National Black History Month and American Heart Month are celebrated this month as well as: National Freedom Day (February 1), National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (February 7), President's Day (February 16), and Random Acts of Kindness Day (February 17).

Other important dates to educate others about this month include: USO Day which is celebrated February 4; Salute to Veteran Patients Week, which is observed February 9 - 15, 2026; the Coast Guard Reserve Birthday is February 19; and Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFE), which will be held February 28 in Washington D.C.(please see the National website for more information).

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Payne

PS: Happy Valentine's Day!!!