

PROGRAM PROMOTIONS SEPTEMBER 2026
AMERICANISM
DEPT CHAIRMAN MICHELLE PAYNE
PO BOX 8; PLANKINTON, SD 57368
605-770-3693
chellepayne@hotmail.com

Department Theme: Bee a Veterans Sunshine

"Americanism is an unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty and posterity."

The Americanism Program:

- Promotes Patriotism by celebrating America's Patriotic Days
- Teaches respect and proper care for the U.S. Flag
- Brings attention to Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action by hosting POW/MIA ceremonies to both educate the public and honor these special veterans.

September 11, 2026 marks the 25th anniversary, can you believe it?! Like many, it is a day I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing. I remember the discussions of disbelief of what was happening with those around me and the uncertainty of what exactly it meant to life as we knew it. Does your Auxiliary or community do anything in remembrance of this day?

September 18, 2026 is National POW/MIA Day, a solemn remembrance of the sacrifices, honor and bravery of those who served and were unable to return home, are still missing or suffered at the hands of our enemies. This day shows our commitment to finding them and remembering their sacrifices. This month I encourage you to set up a Missing Man Table.

Check out our State (<https://vfwauxsd.org>) and National (<https://vfwauxiliary.org>) websites; you can find a lot of great information and ideas!

AMERICANISM PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most unique POP sign and/or meme showcasing the VFW Auxiliary.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Americanism Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National Americanism Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen:

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary Department Americanism Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the best promotion of POP signs and/or memes showcasing the VFW Auxiliary.

Winners will be announced, and citations will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention. Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Department account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention for disbursement to the winning VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman.

2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on page 5 and for the promotion of the Ambassador's Program goals.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention. Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Department account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention



Americanism

National Program Award 2026-2027 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most unique POP sign and/or meme showcasing the VFW Auxiliary.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the
Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the POP sign and/or meme showcasing the VFW Auxiliary. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department Americanism Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Americanism Ambassador Jessica Gardner by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Department Americanism Chairman: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.

POW-MIA MISSING MAN TABLE



You may notice this small table here, in a place of honor. This table is our way of symbolizing that members of our Armed Forces are missing from our ranks. They are commonly called P.O.W.'s or M.I.A.'s, the VFW calls them comrades, and we call them heroes.

This table set for one is small... it symbolizes the frailty of one prisoner against his oppressors.

The tablecloth is white... it symbolizes the purity of their intentions to respond to their Country's call to arms.

The single red rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades in arms who keep faith awaiting their return.

The yellow ribbon tied on the vase is reminiscent of the yellow ribbon tied around trees and worn on the lapel of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting for our missing.

The candle...is reminiscent of the light of hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors and into the open arms of a grateful nation.

A slice of lemon is on the plate... to remind us of their bitter fate.

There is salt upon the plate... symbolic of the family's tears as they wait.

The glass is inverted... they cannot drink with us today.

The chair is empty... they are not here.

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN