

VFW Auxiliary Department of South Dakota  
Americanism

**August Bulletin – 2024**

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

HELLO!

**August is most certainly the month of warmth, beauty, and a great time to recognize displays of American Pride!** Present individuals or organizations certificates of recognition for displays or activities that are filled with Americanism. There are yards that display the US Flag with landscaping that inspires American pride to those that observe the beauty to the creation of parade floats that spark the feeling of how wonderful it is to be an American! Whatever people in your community are doing let the person/s/ know you appreciate their Americanism! Take the challenge and find at least two displays of American Pride this August! *Toni Huber*



Coast Guard  
08/04/1790

**HAPPY  
234<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY**

Info to Share: <https://www.military.com/coast-guard>

- The Coast Guard falls under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security during peacetime
- Considered a military service because during times of war/conflict, the President may transfer this group to the Department of the Navy
- the Coast Guard has approximately 43,000 active-duty men and women, more than 8,000 Reservists and 30,000 Auxiliary personnel
- On call 365 days a year to protect the waterways and people of the U.S.A.
- Motto: "Semper Paratus" — **Always Ready**

**PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY**

**August 7<sup>th</sup> – National Purple Heart Day**

- A day for Americans to remember and honor service members who have been injured or killed in action while serving in the US Armed Forces.



**PURPLE HEART---Did you know?**

- Oldest military award still presented to military service members
- Given to US service members of any rank who have been wounded or killed in action while serving in the US Armed Forces
- in 1782 that General George Washington, Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army, commissioned the first Purple Heart Medal, initially called the Badge of Military Merit.
- To date--John F. Kennedy, is the only President with a Purple Heart

Suggest auxiliary members learn more about the Purple Heart and heroes who have received the Purple Heart Medal by reading:

*For Military Merit: Recipients of the Purple Heart* by Fred L. Borch.

*Purple Heart* by Patricia McCormick

*The Medal with a Heart* by Karen Kulinski

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## Discover the Purple Heart Recipients in your Community



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### Suggestions:

- ❖ Create a Purple Heart display in your community where you recognize those who have received a Purple Heart.
- ❖ Invite a Purple Heart recipient to your auxiliary meeting that is comfortable sharing his/her story and the Purple Heart Medal.
- ❖ Place on a social media site the National Purple Heart date of August 7<sup>th</sup> and what this date commemorates.

## Americanism goals and Back to School are GREAT together!

### Ideas:

- ❖ Adopt a teacher and his/her class for the school year. Use your imagination by creating a start-up basket using red/white/blue as your theme. Check the VFW Store for items such as patriotic pencils and rulers to add to it. Perhaps a sweet treat could be added too. You might include a list of special patriotic holidays that occur in August and September with information for the teacher to share. Present on the first day of school! Then throughout the year provide patriotic information to the teacher. Plan activities to bring Americanism to the class throughout the year: always gaining permission from the teacher first.
- ❖ Arrange with the VFW of your community, your auxiliary, and the school system a special activity for the first day of school. Here are a few suggestions:
  - You could provide patriotic popsicles to be given to the students.
  - Activity: Elementary --Have VFW and Auxiliary members line the sidewalks leading into the school waving American flags and some with Welcome Back signs. Cheering the kids on to a great year.
  - Attach a flag to a red pen or pencil along with a food treat to be given to each teacher on the first day.

Please share what you did under Members Only on the SD VFW Auxiliary site. Click on Community Service Reporting to fill out what you did for this Americanism goal.



Note: On the Year End Americanism Report is the following question:

### \* Did you do an Americanism promotion of youth patriotism?

Any of these ideas would be meet this goal. Just remember to report what the Auxiliary did.



Photos and more photos will inspire others to do projects too. Post yours today!