

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans

Department Theme: United in Service for Veterans



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It's Fall and another Wonderful season to be "Proud to Be an American" and illustrate to the military service people, veterans, and their families they are a top priority! As VFW Auxiliary members you are the leaders in your community to promote, educate, and celebrate being American. May the words you express and your activities conducted be a reflection of your heartfelt devotion to not only speak the VFW Auxiliary ideology but to walk the walk yourself. As Americanism Chairs you are the light that sparks others to understand our American traditions, customs, symbols, and culture. 😊 Enjoy October and look ahead to make plans for November. *Toni*

What is Americanism?

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.

The definition is located inside the cover of every VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual book.

The October meeting is a great time to remind your members of the meaning of Americanism by starting with the definition that was written in 1927 by-

- Commanders in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic
- United Spanish War Veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
- National Commanders of the American Legion
- Disabled American Veterans of World War

Promote

Navy's Birthdate: October 13th



Navy
10/13/1775

Happy
Birthday!

The U.S. Navy was actually formed twice!

The Continental Navy was established on October 13th, 1775 – approximately six months after the start of the Revolutionary War – and was disbanded after the war in 1785. America went without a navy for nine years; however, this lack of defense made us an easy target for bandits. Under the Naval Act of 1794, our country's navy was resurrected and re-named the U.S. Navy.

-Strength approximately 347,000 personnel-

- Post Navy's birthdate on social media
- Create a bulletin board in the community or your meeting place-that celebrates the Navy birthday and shows the Navy service members or veterans from your community. Post interesting facts about the Navy on your board.
- Invite a Navy veteran to your meeting to share his life insights into the military Navy branch of service

Have a different way you honor the Navy's birthday? I would like to hear about it.

A Lesser-known
October
Patriotic
Holiday



October 26th

This day honors all service members who are deployed and the sacrifices of their families.

BRING AWARENESS TO OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY MEMBERS

- Encourage auxiliary members to wear a yellow ribbon on Day of the Deployed. By wearing a yellow ribbon, you show support for our deployed troops and raise awareness.



Suggestion-Bring yellow ribbons to your October meeting and distribute to members. Send out a reminder prior to the Oct. 26th date encouraging members to wear the yellow ribbon on that Saturday. Post on social media the Day of the Deployed and encourage others to wear yellow ribbons too.

SEND A CARE PACKAGE OR LETTER TO A DEPLOYED MILITARY PERSON

- Receiving a letter or a care package is something that many deployed military members really enjoy.



Here are some ways to honor military families of the deployed:

- Prepare a meal for the family
- Help with household tasks
- Lend your time and skills
- Invite the family to a party or dinner
- Deliver groceries or a care package
- Babysit
- Take the kids out
- Recognize their sacrifice through social media or e-mail

November is just around the corner and is a 'Major Month' for Americanism and other Programs to start planning as partners for-

- Election Day—Tuesday, Nov. 5th
- Marine Corps Birthday—Sunday, Nov. 10th
- Veterans Day—Monday, Nov. 11th

Election Day— a couple of ideas:

- Mock election for kids. Arrange with a local school to host a mock election on Nov. 5th.
- What can your auxiliary arrange or do to provide transportation to and from polling locations?

Veterans Day---a few suggestions:

- Participate in Veterans Day programs at Schools, Nursing Homes, Community Events etc...
 - Hand out a Veterans Day Thank you gift to each veteran attending.
 - Present flags to those attending the event and how it started).
- Teach children about Veterans Day (what it means and how it started).
- Host a Thank You meal celebration for veterans.
- Challenge your members to Thank 3 or more veterans for their military service. Send cards, use social media, or in person.
- Visit a veteran's hospital

Remember to report your activities on the SD website

<https://vfwauxsd.org>

