







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

Department Theme: *United in Service for Veterans*

					
Army 6/14/1775	Marine Corps 11/10/1775	Navy 10/13/1775	Air Force 09/18/1947	Space Force 12/20/2019	Coast Guard 08/04/1790

Branch of Service Birthdates and Military Order of Precedence

-Celebrate their Birthdates and Share their Specialty with Auxiliary Members-

Powerful words that evoke American patriotism come forth when reading this definition found at the beginning of our Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual---

“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.”

May these words inspire your Americanism Chairmanship journey to enlighten others. Suggestions: recite as an Auxiliary the passage; display the thought-provoking definition at your meeting location; and refer to the meaning as you promote Americanism this year.

Auxiliary Patriotism-Promote Patriotism-Celebrate Patriotic Holidays
Future Bulletins will focus on these key areas.

Flag Education:
The proper etiquette of the American flag, symbolism, and history are areas you are encouraged to focus on within the Americanism program.

Resources:
-MALTA Member Resources
-vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette

Future bulletins will include –

- Flag education in Schools
- Recognition of Outstanding Community Flag Displays
- Flag Retirement Ceremonies




- Patriotic Holiday Dates**
2024-2025
- July 4th - Independence Day
 - Aug 7th -Purple Heart Remembrance Day
 - Sept. 11th - Patriot Day
 - Sept. 17th -Constitution/ Citizenship Day
 - Sept. 20th - POW/MIA Recognition Day
 - Sept. 29th - Gold Star Mothers & Family’s Day
 - Oct. 26th – Day of the Deployed
 - Nov. 11th – Veterans Day
 - Dec. 7th – Pearl Harbor Day
 - Feb. 21st - Presidents Day
 - March 29th – National Vietnam War Veterans Day
 - May 1st - Loyalty Day
 - May 17th - Armed Forces Day
 - May 27th - Memorial Day
 - June 14th – Flag Day

Auxiliaries celebrating and promoting Patriotic Holidays are a great way to enlighten people and communities regarding our top priorities: patriotism and veterans and their families.

A goal for Americanism Chairs this year is to educate and celebrate the lesser-known patriotic holidays too.

July 4th -Happy 248th Birthday America!

This year make a point of spreading positive patriotic cheer! You could hand out American flags, participate in parades, involve youth in patriotic activities--- the ideas are endless!




A Military Tradition

Traditions only continue if people understand the what, why, and when. Thus, instructing others of the Star Family Recognition military tradition is goal of the Americanism program. Learn the facts, share them, and then make sure anyone that qualifies is presented the appropriate Star flag to display.

STAR Family Recognition:

- Military tradition using official service flags/banners with a blue, silver, or gold star that pays tribute to military family members whose loved ones are: on active duty or were wounded or killed in action.
- A service flag approved by the Secretary of Defense may be displayed in a window of the place of residence of individuals who are members of the immediate family of an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during any period of war or hostilities in which the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged.



- The blue star, symbolizing hope and pride, on a white field with a red border, shall signify that one or more family members are currently serving in the armed forces during war or hostilities.
- The display of the blue star service flag shows a family's pride in their loved one(s) serving in the military and the hope for their safe return home.
- **What are Blue Star Families?**
The families of those protecting America are the Blue Star families. They deserve the nation's respect and admiration.



- The silver star, symbolizing gallantry, is reserved for those who have been wounded or contracted a serious illness or injury in a war zone.
- Unlike the other two service flags, the Silver Star Service Flag may be flown by anyone, not just a family member, during war or peace time.
- The silver star is a symbol of military members who have incurred serious injury which prevents them from continuing service.
- **What are Silver Star Families?**
The families of injured military service members are said to be, "Silver Star Families."



- The gold star honors the individual who has been killed in action or has died while on active duty...someone who made the supreme sacrifice for his/her country.
- The death does not have to be combat-related --The military service person must have died while in active service.
- Changing a Blue Star to a Gold Star occurs when a service member has died in service, the family replaces the blue star with a gold star. The gold star lets the community know that their service member died or was killed while serving their country.
- **What is a Gold Star Family?**
A family that has a military service person that has given the ultimate sacrifice-his/her life.