

# Americanism Program

## July 2020-2021

Let me introduce myself. Most of you know me, but for the ones that don't, my name is Joy Pfeifer. I am honored to be your Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman, for the year. I joined the Auxiliary in March 2008, under my husband Rodney Pfeifer a highly decorated Marine, that served this country for 24 years. I am a retired deputy sheriff, that served our local community for almost 20 years. I am the proud daughter of an Air Force intelligence officer, step-daughter of an Army veteran and the granddaughter of two WWII Army soldiers. Boy did they have stories. I look forward to meeting and working with you all, to make this a fun, successful year. Please, let me know if I can do anything to help you.

**Americanism** is the *love* of our country, *loyalty* to its institutions and ideals, the *willingness* to defend it against all enemies, and *undivided allegiance* to the Flag. I will work hard to ensure that our organization continues to promote and educate the citizens of this great country, in what it means to have true patriotism and to learn respect for the Flag, with all the traditions we hold sacred.

### **The goals of the Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Program are:**

- Flag Education-Respect for the Flag-Engaging the Community
- Promote Patriotism-Celebrating Patriotic Holidays
- POW/MIA Recognition
- Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award
- Promoting Americanism and Connecting with the Community
- Recognizing our Blue Star and Gold Star Families

### **Promoting Americanism and Connecting with the Community**

How do you tell your Auxiliary's story to your community? How do you spread the word about what great things you are doing? How do you teach your community? Eighty percent of people have their face planted in their phones, searching social media sites, like *YouTube*, *Instagram* or *Facebook*. If you do not have a page, I encourage you to set one up. This is a great avenue to reach out to your community. You can reach more people, teach your programs, spread Americanism and Patriotism. You can even set up event pages and send out invites.

It's time for the July activities. As we celebrate patriotic holidays please take the time to educate yourself and others. Go to [www.vfwauxiliary.com](http://www.vfwauxiliary.com) for resources and publicity items. This site is there for you!

### **Independence Day - July 4<sup>th</sup>**

On this day in 1776, our forefathers formed a new nation by adopting the Declaration of Independence. As we gained independence from Great Britain, the United States of America was born, as an independent nation. Our country will celebrate its 242nd birthday this year. Isn't she beautiful?

Ceremonies and parades will occur around our nation during the holiday. Passing out flags to children, riding on a Post or Auxiliary float, and marching with the colors are some typical ways to participate. Take the opportunity to remind everyone about the proper Flag etiquette at parades. Download “Flag Etiquette at Parades” from the Program & Publicity Resources page of our website under “Americanism” and hand it out.

**Community Flag Education** July 4<sup>th</sup> is the perfect time to start Flag education in your community. It is such an amazing feeling to see our Flag flying. Our Flag is a living symbol of national pride and the freedoms we hold dear. We need to reach out to our communities and teach others about our Flag’s history, respect for our Flag, Flag etiquette and how to properly retire the Flag.

**These include:**

- Recognize businesses and individuals in your community who display the Flag. Patriotic certificates are available from the VFW Store and online at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources).
- If you see a tattered or worn-out Flag flying, offer to exchange it for a new one.
- Host a Flag exchange at your Post Home or another location in your community.
- Provide a community Flag disposal receptacle to collect Flags that should no longer be displayed.
- Invite members of you community to a Flag retirement ceremony so they can learn how to properly retire a Flag.

By going these things, we have the opportunity to educate other about our nation’s most prominent symbol and to share the great work our organization does to promote patriotism.

**NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY – July 25**

Every day, hundreds of our military personnel leave the service in search of civilian employment. On July 25, employers across the country are reminded to consider these servicemen and women as highly trained, qualified individuals to fill open positions in their ranks during National Hire a Veteran Day. Help get the word out, host a job fair or make a list of local businesses that are willing to employ a veteran.

I am here to serve you. Please, let me know if I can do anything to make your year better, in Americanism. If we FOCUS, we will be “**Fulfilling Our Commitment with Unwavering Support**”.

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