

## Americanism Promotion for September

We are starting our third month of promotions. There are several Patriotic days to show off your Americanism this month. Now, more than ever, we need to show our belief in America and our patriots. We need to stand behind what our men and women are dying for and Go to [www.vfwauxiliary.com](http://www.vfwauxiliary.com) under resources, for more information and publicity items. This site is there for you!

**Hold on**, this is a longer one.....

It is time to **Come Together** and **Keep the American Spirit Alive**

We need to come together, even though we are apart, to keep the American spirit alive. Some of you may be sheltering at home, some may have lost a job and some may still be working. Remember, **you are not alone**. My thoughts are with you all, for America, and for those in other countries around the world who are suffering, right now. Even though it can be challenging to meet and handle business, try hosting a meeting via teleconference or videoconference to have group discussions. It is still necessary to continue the great work we do for our veterans and our communities. There are many ways to make this pandemic easier on everyone and cover several of our Programs in the process.

- **Display your American Flag** at home and place small American Flags throughout your neighborhood to boost morale.
- **Phone a friend**. So many of us rely on texting to communicate and while it's a great way to check in, the sound of another's voice can bring comfort to another person that a text can't. For those who are alone and sheltering at home, a phone call may be the only contact they have with the outside world. Spare a few minutes, pick up the phone and make someone's day! Start with your membership list!
- **Sew facemasks** for those in need. If you don't sew, you may have some fabric or elastic hair bands you could donate to those who are making them.
- **Donate extra craft supplies** to senior homes, group homes for those with disabilities who don't get out to their day programs, or to families who have children who need to be entertained.
- **Donate food or money to a food pantry**, or take a meal to a shut-in or person in need.
- **Put up signs** on lawns, windows or doors to say "Thank You" to our first responders.
- **Make cards to send** to fire and police stations, nursing and Veteran homes, and fellow members. A homemade or store-bought card is sure to brighten their day.
- **Thank farmers, truckers and food processing plant workers** who are working to make sure we have the food and supplies we need.
- **Sing in quarantine**. Entertain others with the online Quarantine Karaoke. It is so FUN! I know several friends who are doing this and it really breaks up the monotony of television re-runs, and brings so much joy to the lives of others.

- **Play games online.** There are games you can make up and challenge each other with, such as “I Spy,” posting pet, significant other or other photos on Facebook, or you can interact with the many games available to download.

We can't gather in large groups, but that doesn't mean we can't show our **AMERICAN SPIRIT**. We are proud Americans and we are SURVIVORS! No matter how insignificant an act of kindness may seem to you, it matters to someone and it keeps VFW Auxiliary members active in these trying times.

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**September's Patriotic Days include:**

**Patriot Day – September 11**

Patriot Day, also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, in memory of those killed during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Those we lost will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts and in the history of our nation. By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), Congress authorized the President to designate September 11, each year as “Patriot Day” to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America, and to pursue peace and justice in the world and security at home. Appropriate ceremonies and activities include a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. EDT, remembrance services and candlelight vigils, can be held at your Post. Flags should be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day.

**Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – September 17**

This day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, by 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention. This document established the framework of our government and the rights and freedoms that “We the People” enjoy today.

In 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as “I Am An American Day.” In 1944, “I Am An American Day” was promoted by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. On February 29, 1952, Congress moved “I Am An American Day” observation to September 17 and renamed it “Citizenship Day.” In 2004, Congress renamed the holiday “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day”. A few ways to celebrate are holding a picnic, have a trivia night, hold a Constitution education class, etc.

**POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September**

POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities, cemeteries, post offices and military installations. Plan ahead and check with your local facilities to make sure they have a POW/MIA flag and if not, it would be a great time to make a formal presentation of the flag to the facility. A great time to do your Missing Man presentation at your joint meeting. **POW/MIA – YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.**

**Gold Star Mother's/Family's Day – Last Sunday in September**

Gold Star Mother's/Family's Day honors mothers and families who have lost a service member in combat. The name comes from the custom of families hanging Service Flags in the window of their homes. The Service Flag has a star for each family member in the armed forces. A blue star represents a family member in active service, a silver star represents a family member wounded or injured in a war zone and a gold star represents a family member killed during active-duty and stands for sacrifice made for honor and freedom. The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was founded shortly after World War 1 by Grace Darling Seibold, who lost her son, George Vaughn Seibold, during the war. Gold Star Mothers are often socially active but are non-political. Gold Star Mother's Day was designated by Congress on June 23, 1936. In September 2012, President Barack Obama rededicated the last Sunday in Sept as "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day." One promotion would be to have a Gold Star Mother/Family dinner, cookout or invite them to your joint meeting and show recognition.

Thank you, for all you do for our veterans. Remember, if we **FOCUS**, we are "**Fulfilling Our Commitment of Unwavering Support**".

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