

## **AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**

### **BULLETIN 1 – 2019-2020**

The major items that need to be addressed for the year of 2019-2020 are FLAG EDUCATION, PROMOTE PATRIOTISM, POW/MIA RECOGNITION, and SMART/MAHER NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AWARD. To accomplish all these, following the questions on the year-end report is a good way to get started.

The Americanism chair for the year within your Auxiliary and your District is also the Patriotic Instructor. Having these two as one was changed several years ago by National VFW Auxiliary. The major “job” of the Patriotic Instructor (along with the mentoring all the rest of us must continue to do) is to educate members and all community members on the proper care, respect, etiquette, display, conduct around, and salute (either the heart salute or the military hand salute) during the movement of the Flag (in parades, meetings, etc.), during the Pledge of Allegiance, the playing of the National Anthem, 21-gun salute, and Taps. This necessary job of education all boils down to a code of ethics and good citizenship – which cannot be developed overnight by edict or official pronouncement. It is developed by years of practice and performance of duty according to high ethical standards. It must be self-policing. Without such a code, a professional group (such as the VFW and its Auxiliary) soon loses its identity and effectiveness. Let’s be proud, not arrogant; and let’s be humble, not braggarts! It sounds like its old and honest, but it projects an aura of Americanism at its best.

Celebrating holidays isn’t hard. If you can’t or don’t want to have a serious ceremony, just mention something about the special day to a couple of people you come into contact with during the day. Acknowledging any of these special days’ counts as “celebrating”! Many upcoming patriotic holidays to celebrate are:

- ✓ 6 June – Anniversary of World War II Allied Invasion in Normandy, France (D-Day)
- ✓ 14 June – Flag Day - commemorating adoption of U. S. Flag
- ✓ 14 June – U. S. Army Birthday
- ✓ 23 June – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- ✓ 25 June – Anniversary of start of Korean War (1950)
- ✓ 27 June – National PTSD Awareness Day
- ✓ 27 July – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (1953)
- ✓ 29 July - Anniversary of Army Chaplain Corps
- ✓ 4 August – Coast Guard Birthday
- ✓ 7 August – Purple Heart Day
- ✓ 8 August – VJ (Victory over Japan) Day (1945)
- ✓ 29 August – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday

If any of you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. If I don’t know the answer, I will work hard to find one!

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