

## AMERICANISM – 2020-2021 BULLETIN 2

Since POW/MIA Day is coming up on the third Friday of this month (September 18), let me remind you that in 2017 the Washington State Legislature passed a bill regarding flying of the POW/MIA flag (RCW 1.20.017). This measure directs that every state agency, institution of higher education, and every county/city/town shall display the national league of families POW/MIA flag along with the state and national flags on certain days each year. Efforts are appreciated to appropriately recognize our Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. These days are:

- 30 Mar (per RCW) - Vietnam Veterans Day
- 9 Apr – Former Prisoners of War Day
- Third Saturday in May – Armed Forces Day
- Last Monday in May – Memorial Day **(flag at half-staff/mast sunrise to noon)**
- 14 Jun – Flag Day
- 4 Jul – Independence Day
- 27 Jul – National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- Third Friday in September – National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 11 Nov – Veterans’ Day
- 7 Dec – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

If you do not see this flag being flown appropriately, please take some time to write the local authority in charge. Please note that the POW/MIA flag should be flown under the flag of the United States. Also, if you would like to have a speech to share and would like my help, please let me know – I’m extremely glad to share! By the way, I have been asked to give my speech and “set” the Missing Man Table at Port Orchard Post/Auxiliary at their dinner on September 19<sup>th</sup> – join us if you desire.

I’m quite sure that a lot of us have been wondering what happened to the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Teacher Award Program for this year. My Ambassador notified us on 10 August: “There will not be a National Teacher of the Year. Each Department winner submitted to VFW National Headquarters will receive a citation for the teacher and their school. These will then be forwarded on to the Department Headquarters for presentation. Please review the new rules and eligibility requirements” and find the 2021 nomination form on the national website. I am assuming (my favorite word!) that each nomination would be submitted to me for judging and forwarding to National.

The last Sunday in September (this year that is the 25<sup>th</sup>) is Gold Star Mothers/Families Day. Please look at the Americanism Program portion on our Department Website to see about the new stars that have been added beyond the Blue and Gold Stars. I was so excited a couple of weeks ago – passed a car that had a magnet on it with 3 Blue Stars. He passed me up after, honked his horn, and gave me a thumbs up because of my Gold Star magnet on the back of my car! It is noticed!

Most important is that September is Suicide Awareness Month. The rising tragedy of military suicides has struck at the heart of every VFW Auxiliary member. If anyone knows of someone who is suffering from depression and/or has thoughts of suicide, encourage them to call the Suicide Prevention Hotline – 800-273-TALK (8255).

*Thank you for always being there to listen, care, and to help me grow!*

Judy Leu

[leu.judy@gmail.com](mailto:leu.judy@gmail.com)

425-235-8542