



American Legion Auxiliary  
Americanism Bulletin  
District 28  
Chairman: Elizabeth Doidge

September, 2022

There are several pieces to the Americanism program. Flag Etiquette, Military Family Month, Patriotic Holidays, The Americanism Essay Contest, and Star Spangled Kids are just a few that we'll be focusing on this year.

Correct flag etiquette is a great way to support Americanism. Remember not all members know correct flag etiquette! Teach people proper technique, don't admonish when you see something wrong. Is your eagle facing forward? What side of the table or station is your American flag? Explain the hollow-ground between the flags.

November is Military Family Month. I know that there will be many opportunities to support our Veterans, Active Duty Military and their families throughout our District. Most Units and Posts are involved in Veteran's Day Activities. Please make sure to share pictures and details regarding the events. The more you document now, the easier it is when it comes to Mid-Year and End of Year Reports.

I've provided a list of National Patriotic Holidays. It doesn't take much to honor someone for each of these holidays. A simple card or Thank you for your service go a long way.

Educating our children about American history is extremely important to our country's civic health. "Star Spangled Kids" is the American Legion Auxiliary initiative to educate our youth about United States history, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.

Remember that we need children to continue to grow our organization. We need to include them in our meetings and events if we want them to help the organization. I've included Suzanne Winters' bulletin which includes several ways to involve our youth through the Star Spangled Kids and The Americanism Essay Titles.

As always, keep an eye on the Department Website for new information. We are regularly putting new information up there.

Elizabeth Doidge



## *The Meaning Behind the 13 Folds of the United States Flag*

- 1) *The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.*
- 2) *The second fold signifies our belief in eternal life.*
- 3) *The third fold is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life in the defense of our country to attain peace.*
- 4) *The fourth fold exemplifies our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance.*
- 5) *The fifth fold is an acknowledgement to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong".*
- 6) *The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our hearts that we allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*
- 7) *The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our flag against all enemies.*
- 8) *The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.*
- 9) *The ninth fold is an honor to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion the character of men and women who have made this country great have been molded.*
- 10) *The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first-born.*
- 11) *The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*
- 12) *The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.*
- 13) *The last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto "In God we Trust".*

Breaking the Colors" is not a violation of the United States Flag Code. The American Legion Auxiliary has developed a tradition and meaningful custom in which one does not pass between the American Flag and the Auxiliary Banner. This custom of preserving "Hallowed Ground" shows honor and respect to our fallen veterans. This is a tradition. This poem by an unknown author is a good example as to why-

***Between these flags that proudly fly  
Let no man dare to stand,  
For here our fallen comrades lie.  
A symbol, yes, but mark it well;  
Here let us ever humbly pause in memory of the lads  
Who fell in fighting for our sacred cause.  
On sea or land these buddies dies,  
Some lie beneath a foreign sod  
In graves caressed by winds and tide,  
In spots unknown to all but God.  
And so, this place is Hallowed Ground,  
And it shall be forever blest,  
As though it were a grassy mound  
Beneath which gallant heroes rest.  
Be ever watchful, Legionnaire,  
Of those two flags which signify  
That we should guard this spot with care  
Where our departed comrades lie.  
And, if a man should dare to tread this spot  
where lies our gallant brave,  
He desecrates those noble dead  
As though he walked upon their graves.***



## NATIONAL PATRIOTIC DAYS



### JANUARY

JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY  
JANUARY MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH  
JANUARY 17 CIVIL RIGHTS DAY

### FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1 BLUE STAR MOM'S DAY  
FEBRUARY PRESIDENTS DAY THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

### MARCH

MARCH 30 VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

### MAY

MAY 6 MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY  
MAY 8 MOTHER'S DAY  
MAY 21 ARMED FORCES DAY  
MAY 30 MEMORIAL DAY

### JUNE

JUNE 14 ARMY BIRTHDAY  
JUNE 14 FATHER'S DAY  
JUNE 19 FATHER'S DAY

### JULY

JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY  
JULY 27 KOREAN WAR RECOGNITION DAY

### AUGUST

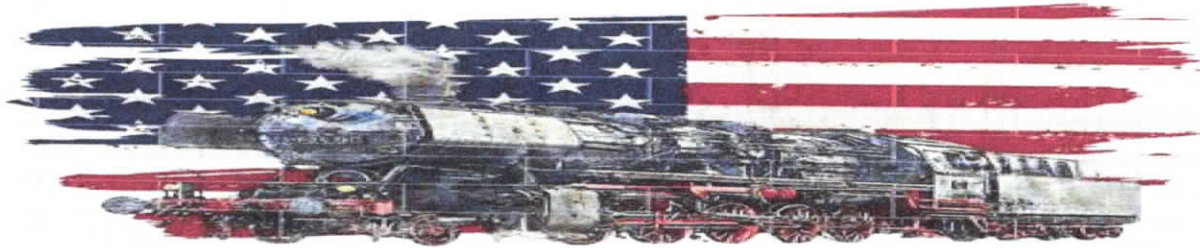
AUGUST 4 COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY  
AUGUST 7 PURPLE HEART DAY

### SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 5 LABOR DAY  
SEPT. 9 FIRST RESPONDERS' DAY  
SEPT. 20 POW/MIA  
SEPT. 17 CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY  
SEPT. 25

### OCTOBER

OCT. 13 NAVY BIRTHDAY



**AMERICANISM  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2022  
BULLETIN#3**

I HOPE THAT YOU ARE ALL ON BOARD FRIENDSHIP TRAIN RIDING, THE AMERICAN EXPRESS. WE ARE ROLLING DOWN THE TRACKS PROMOTING PATRIOTISM, AND FLYING THE AMERICAN FLAG.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- 9/11 PATRIOTS DAY, LET US NEVER FORGET
- 9/17 CONSTITUTION DAY
- 9/18 AIR FORCE DAY
- 9/20 NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY

\*\*\*\*START TO PLAN YOUR VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

I HOPE YOU HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND ARE PROMOTING THE **ESSAY CONTEST QUESTIONS:**

ESSAY TITLES ARE:

GROUP 1- GRADES 4-5

Why We Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

GROUP 2-GRADES 6-7

What Does it Mean to Love your Country?

GROUP 3-GRADES 8-9

What Does Veterans Day Mean to Me?

GROUP 4-GRADES 10,11,12

Who Can Achieve the American Dream?

GROUP 5- EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?

**ACTIVITIES:**

- UNIT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE IDEALS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.
- BRINGING VETERANS OR SERVICE MEMBERS TO LOCAL SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUPS TO TALK ABOUT WHAT THEIR SERVICE MEANS TO DEFENDING THE IDEALS OF THE CONSTITUTION.
- DISTRIBUTING PATRIOTIC COLORING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY GRADES
- DISTRIBUTING POCKET COPIES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN.
- ENCOURAGING HIGH SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN TO USE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION BY PARTICIPATING IN THE **AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST**

The background of the page is a faded American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white.

## **What Do Coins Mean on a Military Tombstone?**

**Have you ever noticed while visiting the grave marker of a Veteran and saw coins on the headstone? Well, there's a reason for the coins.....**

**The tradition became popular during and after the Vietnam War which was very unpopular with the American public. To let the family know you stopped by to pay your respects to their deceased family member. It is believed it was a way to show respect without getting into an uncomfortable political discussion about a war which was very controversial.**

**Penny-You visited the grave**

**Nickle-You trained at Boot Camp together**

**Dime-You served with the soldier**

**Quarter-You were with the soldier when they died**