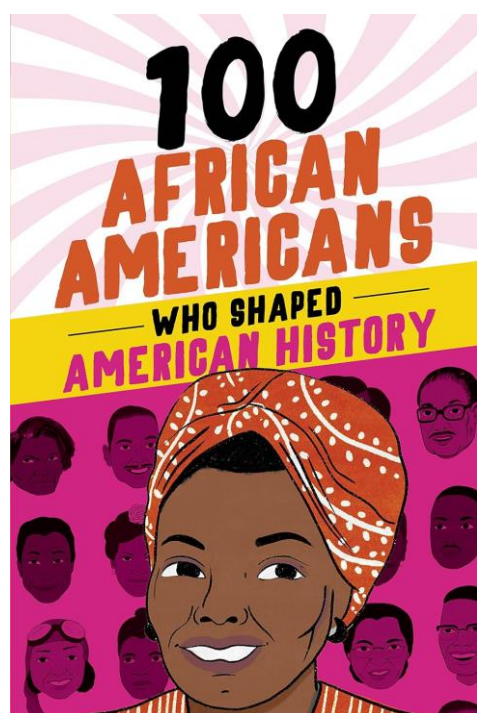


## Youth Activities February and March



**REMINDER ILLUSTRATING AMERICA AND GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE ARE DUE MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>. PLEASE VISIT THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND CONTEST FORMS.**



Looking for a book to share with the youth during Black History Month?

<https://a.co/d/g2lOvWM>

### Dates to remember

#### February

Black History Month	All Month Long
Four Chaplains Day	Feb. 3
USO Birthday	Feb. 4
National Salute to Veteran Patients	Week of Feb. 12
Coast Guard Reserve Birthday	Feb. 19

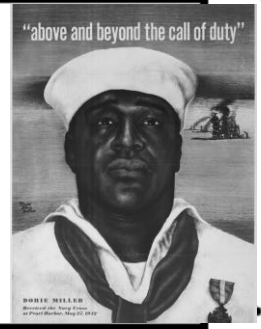
#### March

Navy Reserve Birthday	March 3
Hug a GI Day	March 4
K-9 Veterans Day	March 13
Rosie The Riveter Day	March 21
Medal of Honor Day	March 25
National Vietnam War Veterans Day	March 29



# Black History Month Information

Doris Miller was one of the first to be awarded the Navy Cross after WWII. He displayed great acts of bravery during the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and throughout the second World War. Dorie's legacy paved the way for African-American service members to serve in combat roles and is even honored today on his iconic poster.



The start of World War I marked an influential time for African American men all over the United States. In hopes to show their loyalty and patriotism, they joined the armed forces to defeat Germany. Not only did their sacrifice show their dedication to democracy and freedom, but it also marked a turning point in American history. It wasn't until the middle of the 20th century that their bravery began to be recognized. Today, we want to celebrate and honor these great men and women for what they have contributed to our military and history.

For more information about Black Heroes Throughout US Military History please be sure to check out the links below.

<https://soldiersangels.org/black-leaders-in-military-history/>

<https://www.history.com/news/black-heroes-us-military-history>



## Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue Contest Information

An individual singing contest for youth in grades K-12 at the time of local entry, and a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Youth learn the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" while expressing their creativity. The contest highlights the vocal talent of young people while promoting patriotism.

This message is coming from Joyce Caldwell  
Youth Activities Ambassador 2023-2024.

Many of you have inquired about the submission of your Department winner for the "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue" singing contest. I have received verification from National as follows:

"When submitting the Department winning "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue" video to National Headquarters, it will need to be an MP4 format. The Departments will be submitting the MP4 Videos into a Dropbox provided by National Headquarters at a later date."


**VFW Auxiliary Judging deadline date March 31.**

Entry forms and advertisements can be found at <https://vfwauxmd.org> under Youth Activities.



# Illustrating America Contest Information

A patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students that encourages students' artistic abilities and rewards their hard work. It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawings and paintings. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. There are National awards for first, second and third place in each grade division



**VFW Auxiliary National  
Illustrating America Art Contest**  
An Art contest for students in grades K-8

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*I hereby grant permission of the artwork by the student listed above to be published in VFW Auxiliary Magazine, on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a winner of one of the top national awards. I hereby verifying that the entry was done by the student listed above.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.  
National Headquarters only accepts Department level first place winners.  
Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be disqualified.**

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Department of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate grade division.

This first place entry is for:  GradeK-2  OR  Grade3-5  OR  Grade 6-8

VFW Auxiliary Judging deadline date March 31  
 Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

Department Judging deadline date April 15th  
 Department Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

Final Level - Department winning entries must be received at  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by May 5 or they will be disqualified.  
ATTN: Program Awards Administrator

Entry forms and advertisements can be found at <https://vfwauxmd.org> under Youth Activities.

**VFW  
Auxiliary  
Judging  
deadline date  
March 31.**