

Americanism Promotion #1| July 2024

Katlyn Burke

2024-2025 National Americanism Ambassador

auxamericanism24@gmail.com



Greetings, everyone! I'm Katlyn Burke and I'm the National Americanism Ambassador for 2024-2025. I'm excited to work with you all this year and see all the creative ideas everyone has for the Americanism Program. As we accomplish many great things this year, let's have some fun, too!

I am a Life Member of Herman Godbersen Auxiliary 8334 in Millard, Nebraska. I joined under the

eligibility of my grandfather Rolland Hild. He served in the Army in Vietnam from 1967-1968. I have been a Life Member of the VFW Auxiliary since I was 16, but have been involved in the Auxiliary since I was a little girl. Growing up within the Auxiliary, I have done many things from volunteering at "Buddy"® Poppy drives, handing out Flags at parades, volunteering at the nursing home, playing bingo with the residents, to volunteering with my family at our Post Home serving dinners.

I served as District President for three years, Department Youth Activities Chairman for three years, Department Membership for a year, and trustee at all levels. I was going through the Department chairs with the Department of Nebraska before moving to Texas with my husband, who serves active duty in the Air Force.

The U.S Flag has symbolized freedom for many years, and it is important we teach everyone about Flag education and etiquette. Properly caring and respecting the U.S. Flag plays a big part in demonstrating Americanism. For more information about Flag etiquette visit vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette.

Summer is here and school will be starting back up soon! Now is a good time to think of different ways to engage the community and teach them about respect for our Flag.

- Flag Education in School: Get in contact with your local schools and educate our youth about patriotism and the importance of respecting our Flag. Educate the youth on the 13 folds of the Flag and symbolization of each fold of the Flag. Visit the Member Resources tab in MALTA for more information about Flag Education and different things you can hand out to the youth for them promoting patriotism and showing respect for the Flag.
- Flag Retirement Ceremonies: These ceremonies are the perfect way to involve Auxiliary and VFW members and can serve as an event involving the entire community as well.

For more information about Flag Retirement Ceremonies visit the Member Resources tab in MALTA.

As we come together with friends and families on patriotic holidays, it is a good time to remember to pay a tribute to the men and women who have served in the U.S. military, as they have served or are serving to protect our country and freedom. There are many patriotic holidays throughout the year. Some of them may be more commonly known but they are all equally important. It is important for us to focus on all patriotic holidays as it shows us supporting patriotism and making veterans and their families a top priority.



Here are a few ways we can promote lesser-known patriotic holidays:

- Study the history behind the lesser-known patriotic holiday and educate others.
- Raise Awareness about the lesser-known patriotic holidays.
- Attend a patriotic ceremony
- Participate in a parade. Ask members and youth to help hand out Flags at the parade.
- Fly the American Flag

Purple Heart Remembrance Day is a lesser-known patriotic holiday that we can observe; and is observed on August 7. Each year on this day our nation recognizes the men and women who were wounded or killed on the battlefield by remembering the sacrifices they made.

As we promote patriotism and observe some of the lesser-known patriotic holidays, don't forget about some of the well-known patriotic holidays.

Let's talk about awards! For the Americanism Program we have awards for Auxiliaries, Departments and Department Chairman. Awards for the Auxiliaries is the Auxiliary in each division that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about lesser-known patriotic holidays. The awards for the Department Americanism Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of lesser-known patriotic holidays.

I've already heard from a few Departments so far and look forward to hearing from everyone else soon! So far, I've already seen some creative ideas and hope to be able to share many with you about what other Departments are doing.