

Americanism
Patriotic Instructors
September 2024
VFW Dept of Maryland Auxiliary
“Setting Sail for Our Veterans”

It’s time “Set Sail for our Veterans” and to organize and make plans to celebrate and plan events for the Patriotic Holidays to spread the word throughout our communities.

Fly the flag, visit historic landmarks, host community celebrations and participate in parades.

Take the opportunity to educate others about the US flag and to teach our community how to properly salute the flag, when to display the flag, how to conduct a Flag-raising ceremony and how to fold and store the flag.

We can also make plans with local schools to volunteer to teach our students flag education and respect for the flag. You could hold a coloring contest for students. I look forward to your ideas.

Make sure to give community members and businesses a certificate of recognition for displaying the flag. These can be found on the websites in the Americanism program.

www.vfwauxiliary.org www.vfwauxmd.org

Patriotic Instructors please mentor new and old members the proper way to salute the flag and teach them our “auxiliary traditions”. The *Understanding Auxiliary Traditions* help sheet and videos are available on MALTA.

Feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you for all you do for our great organization!

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"Patriotic Holidays" September -December



September 11th – Patriot Day, also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance is held to remember those we lost on September 11th by terrorist. Ceremonies are held and activities include a moment of silence at 8:46am EDT. Flags should be flown at half-staff on this day.

September 17th - Commemorates the September 17, 1787 signing of the United States Constitution. The document established the framework of our government and the rights and freedoms that “We the People” enjoy today.

September 18th – U.S. Air Force Birthday (1947)

September 20th – The third Friday in September POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation’s prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations.

September 29th - Gold Star Mother’s and Family Day is held the last Sunday in September to honor mothers and families who have lost a daughter or son in the line of duty or in support of military activities. The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc was founded shortly after World War 1 by Grace Darling Seibold, who lost her son, George Vaughn Seibold during the war. Gold Star Mothers are often socially active, but are non-political.

October 13th - U.S. Navy Birthday (1775)

October 26th - Day of the Deployed honors the United States military personnel deployed around the world.

November 10th – U.S. Marine Corp Birthday (1775)

November 11th – Veterans Day is a day we honor all veterans.

December 7th – Pearl Harbor Day we remember the 2,403 service members and civilians killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7, 1941.

December 20th – U.S. Space Force Birthday

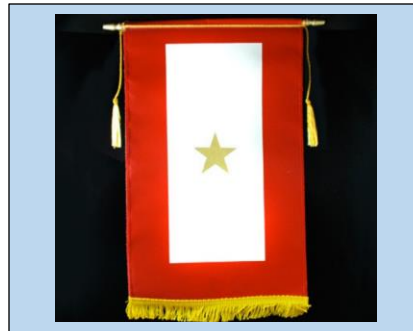
Americanism

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VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland

Cheri Brown PDP – Chairman
VFW Dept of Maryland Auxiliary

What are considered **Gold Star Families**?



Initiated during World War I, the title **Gold Star** distinguishes a family member who lost a loved one in military service. Today, immediate family members (parent, sibling, spouse, or child) receive a **Gold Star** from the Department of Defense, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

What does a **Blue Star Family** mean?



Silver Star Families
banner
represents a family
member who was
injured, wounded
or became ill during
or as a result of
combat.

Today, families display these banners when they have a loved one serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The **Blue Star** represents one family member serving, and a banner can have up to five stars. If the individual is killed or dies, a smaller **Golden Star** is placed over it.

Patriotic Holidays

Commonly known and Lesser-known Holidays



September 2, 2025 – Labor Day
September 11, 2024 – Patriot’s Day and National Day of Service & Remembrance
September 17, 2024 – Constitution Day
September 18, 2024 – U.S. Air Force Birthday (1947)
September 20, 2024 – POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 29, 2024 – Gold Star Mother’s Day and Family Day
October 13, 2024 – U.S. Navy Birthday (1775)
October 26, 2024 – Day of the Deployed
November 10, 2024 – U.S. Marine Corp Birthday (1775)
November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day
December 7, 2024 – Pearl Harbor Day
December 13, 2025 - U.S. National Guard Birthday (1636)
December 20, 2024 – U.S. Space Force Birthday
February 3, 2025 – Four Chaplains Day
March 3, 2025 – Navy Reserve Birthday
March 25, 2025 – Medal of Honor Day
March 29, 2025 – National Vietnam Veterans Day
April 5, 2025 – Gold Star Spouses Day
April 14, 2025 – Air Force Reserve Birthday
April 23, 2025 – Army Reserve Birthday
May 1, 2025 - Silver Star Banner Day
May 1, 2025 – Loyalty Day
May 10, 2025 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day
May 18, 2025 – Armed Forces Day
June 6, 2025 – Anniversary of World War 2
June 14, 2025 – U.S. Army Birthday (1775)
June 14, 2025 – Flag Day
June 23, 2025 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
June 27, 2025 – National PTSD Awareness Day
July 4, 2025 – Independence Day
July 27, 2025 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
August 4, 2025 – U.S. Coast Guard Birthday (1790)
August 7, 2025 – Purple Heart Day
August 29, 2025 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday