

# AMERICANISM 2010-2011

## SEPTEMBER 2010 GENERAL ORDERS

**To: Department President; PDPs; District Presidents; Auxiliary Presidents; Secretaries; Americanism Chairmen and members**

**From: Ellen Carleton, Department Americanism Chairman**  
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**Sisters,**

**I am so excited about being the Americanism Chairman this year! There are so many ways that we can show our Patriotism in our everyday lives. We need to help to teach our youth about the sacrifices made by our veterans; the sacrifices that allow them to enjoy so many freedoms in our great country. This year, I'm hoping to inspire you to reach out to the children and adults in our communities - through patriotic programs and contests, parades, memorial services and flag ceremonies - so many chances to show how we are "United by Love for Our Veterans and Country".**

### **Calendar of Events**

**We should be working on plans for September 11, Patriot Day, September 17, POW/MIA Recognition Day (don't forget to fly your Flag on each of these days) and September 29, VFW Day.**

**Patriot Day** – to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America and to pursue peace and justice in the world and security at home. Appropriate activities include a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. EDT, remembrance services and candlelight vigils. Flags should be flown at half-staff until sunset.

**POW/MIA Recognition Day** - Federal law requires that the POW/MIA flag be flown on this date.

**I have included a copy of a prayer that could be used at any POW/MIA program you hold:**

*The Loneliest Prayer  
By Hardy Abbott*

*As I squat here in this lonely place  
A man maybe even you forgot  
I wonder,  
Am I living hell?  
Am I alive or not?  
I think it's more than ten years now  
Since my last friend left this place.  
I guess he's back home –  
Wherever that is –  
Among the human race.*

*Forgive me, Lord,  
If I seem untrue  
To the values my parents taught.  
To thoughts of you,  
Of family and of country –  
Those things for which I fought  
But, as I've endured the endless days  
That dragged on into years,  
I've battled with all my very being  
To hold back bitter tears.*

*My children,  
By now they're no longer small,  
By now they're nearly grown  
My poor wife – she's had that too;  
She's raised them all alone.  
I've wept to hold my darlings,  
To watch my children grow,  
To feel your presence, Lord,  
My faith in you to show.  
Bless me, Father, and take this life,  
Please let it end today.  
I wonder how they listed me –  
**POW OR MIA?***

**VFW Day** - The VFW was established September 29, 1899, when a small group of Spanish-America war veterans banded together to create one voice on behalf of all American veterans. Though the founders of this phenomenal organization are no longer with us, the strength and legacy they left behind has endured for the past 111 years. Celebrate with parades, open houses and special community events.

## **Fall Council of Administration**

There will be a drawing for an Americanism-based prize from among those Auxiliaries who have submitted an acceptable report to me by 9/25. In addition, there will be a prize to each District President who is 100% reported by 9/25/10 .....so get those reports in as soon as possible!

Don't forget to include in those reports all of your activities in May, June and July as well. Did you fly your POW/MIA flag on Armed Forces Day (5/16), Memorial Day (5/25), Flag Day (6/14), or Independence Day (7/4)? Did you participate in any programs or events? Be sure to submit your reports about your Patriot Day and POW/MIA Remembrance Day activities to me as soon as possible, so that you can be entered into the drawing. I would love to have the Department of Virginia 100% by the October 2nd COA! It is also not too early to be thinking about your nominee for the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award, or to start your "Get Out the Vote" programs. Look for more information next month.

I have received reports from the following auxiliaries as of 8/9:

**District 1: 824 and 5500; District 2: 392; District 3: 7167 and 9808;  
District 4: 7819; District 5: 7726 and 8163; District 7: 621;  
District 9: 1115 and 7726; District 10: 1503 and 9274; District 13: 10574**

So let's "Honor, Respect and Remember Our Veterans" with all of our Americanism programs this year. Ellen

