

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
AMERICANISM BULLETIN
November/December 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Believe.... We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

I hope you all got your Smart/Maher National Citizenship Teacher of the Year applications into your Posts by October 31st. District judging will be taking place soon and I can't wait to see what is turned into the Department. The top 3 teachers will be presented at the Mid Winter Conference in January.

Veterans Day is a perfect opportunity to get into the schools and teach our youth about the Flag and our Veterans. I have been really impressed so far by those auxiliaries that have submitted reports on what they have been doing to promote patriotism and flag education. Keep up the GREAT work!

On you Guide Sheet you may have noticed that I will be awarding EVERY auxiliary a special citation if you participate in Wreaths Across America. Please visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org to see how your Auxiliary can get involved. December 15th is National Wreaths Across America Day. The mission is to remember, honor and teach and that is carried out by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as more than 1,400 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

You can Join them by sponsoring a veteran's wreath at a cemetery near you, volunteering or donating to a local fundraising group. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU REPORT WHAT YOU DO! There are approx. 26 cemeteries in Michigan that participate in Wreaths Across America, check the website to see which is closest to you.

Wreaths can be purchased on the website for as little as \$15, the more you buy the better the price break would be. If you faithfully purchase an evergreen wreath to hang on your door each year PLEASE considering purchasing a Patriot Pair. That gives a wreath to be used at a cemetery and allows you to give the second wreath to a friend/family member Veteran or keep it for yourself. Patriot Pairs start at \$30-\$34.50 depending on what you want on the wreath; a simple red bow to military flags.

Upcoming Patriotic Holidays:

Veterans Day – November 11th

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contribution of living veterans. Originally called Armistice Day, it officially received its name in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War 1 had truly been "the war to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day.

Pearl Harbor Day – December 7th

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U.S. Military forces in Hawaii. In a devastating defeat, the United States suffered 3,435 casualties and loss of severe damage to 188 planes, eight battleships, three light cruisers and four miscellaneous vessels. Japanese losses were less than 100 personnel, 29 planes and five midget submarines.

The day after the attack, before a joint session of Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan. President Roosevelt's message conveyed the national outrage over the Pearl Harbor attack by pronouncing December 7, 1941 "a date which will live in infamy."

Today, the USS Arizona Memorial on the island of Oahu honors the lives lost on the day of attack. Visitors to the memorial reach it via boats from the naval base at Pearl Harbor. Although December 7 is known as Pearl Harbor Day, it is not considered a federal holiday in the United States.

Remember to REPORT all that you do!

When submitting your reports PLEASE provide detailed information. Especially how many U.S. or POW MIA flags you handed out, and the number of certificates presented to businesses or citizens in recognition of displaying their U.S. or POW MIA Flag.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and our GREAT Country!

Sara Manke
Department Americanism Chairman
22232 P Dr. S
Homer MI 49245
(517) 652-4507
Smanke508@hotmail.com