

Americanism Promotion #1 | July 2022
Stephen Doherty
2022-2023 National Americanism Ambassador
401-500-1255
auxamericanism@aol.com

Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care

I am honored and humbled that National President Jane Reape asked me to be the 2022-2023 National Americanism Ambassador & Patriotic Instructor. I look forward to working with each of you.

It was 2004 when my veteran joined the VFW in Middletown, Rhode Island. She did not wait to be told what to do but rather asked, "What can I do?" I joined her by volunteering at many events. In August 2015 men were allowed to join the VFW Auxiliary. Eight months later in April of 2016 I joined the Auxiliary. One month later I was sworn in as Department Senior Vice-President; after the death of our incoming Department President, I assumed that responsibility and at that time, my wife, my veteran GinaMarie was elected Department Commander. That is when team Doherty was formed. After being Department President for two years, I served the organization in many other capacities including District President, Department and National Color Bearer, Eastern Conference Budget Chairman, and this past year, as National District Council Member #18.

I served in the U.S. Navy for twenty years and continued serving the government in finance for twenty more years before retiring in 2018.

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

What is Americanism?

Americanism is a set of United States patriotic values, aimed at creating a collective American identity. These values consist of **Freedom**, **Equality** and **Individuality**.

These ideals include, but are not limited to:

- Self-Government
- Equal Opportunity
- Freedom of Speech
- Belief in Progress

And can be defined as:

- An unfailing love of country.
- Loyalty to its institutions and ideals.
- Eagerness to defend it against all enemies.
- Undivided allegiance to the Flag.
- A desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.

As we begin a new Program Year, let us recognize the upcoming patriotic holidays that are just around the corner and remember to take photos and videos and share them with #AuxiliaryPatriotism.

Celebrating Patriotic Holidays

Independence Day/Fourth of July - July 4

On July 4, 1776, the signers of the Declaration of Independence asserted that all are “created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” With these words, our forefathers formed a new nation and put forth a vision of liberty and democracy that would forever alter history. Every Fourth of July Americans celebrate this pivotal moment in our history, which set into motion the development of a land of freedom and opportunity unequalled in the world.

Patriot Day - September 11

Patriot Day, also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, occurs on September 11 each year in memory of those killed during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Those we lost September 11, 2001, will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts and in the history of our nation. By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001, Congress authorized the President to designate September 11 of each year as 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 ceremonies and 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 on Patriot Day.

POW/MIA Recognition Day - 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. By custom, it is on the third Friday in September.

Gold Star Mother's & Family's Day - Last Sunday in September

Gold Star Mother's/Family's Day honors mothers and families who have lost a service member in the line of duty or support of military actions

The name comes from the custom of families hanging Service Flags in the window of their homes. The Service Flag has a star for each family member in the armed forces. A blue star represents a family member in active-duty service, a silver star represents a family member wounded or injured in a war zone and a gold star represents a family member killed during active-duty and stands for sacrifice made for honor and freedom.

The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was founded shortly after World War I 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. Gold Star Mother's Day was designated by Congress on June 23, 1936. In September 2012, President Barack Obama rededicated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day.

Reach Out to Communities

Contact schools, clubs and organization and encourage Flag education such as:

- How and when to display the Flag.
- How to fold and store the Flag.
- How and when to properly salute the Flag.
- If you notice a tattered Flag, offer to replace it.

Involving our communities in these practices will not only promote patriotism among our students, but also their families, businesses, individuals and community leaders.