



**VFW Auxiliary
Department of Missouri
AMERICANISM
November/December**

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The American Flag is one of the most recognizable symbols that represents dignity, freedom, and what it means to be an American. It has been a part of many significant historical events, great triumphs and tragic times in our country.

The American Flag



- **Red** symbolizes strength and valor – It is a powerful color that also represents the blood shed by those who fought to protect our nation's freedom.
- **White** symbolizes purity and innocence – Our founding fathers chose white to represent independence and new beginnings.
- **Blue** symbolizes vigilance, perseverance and justice – it serves as a reminder of our nation's determination to protect its freedoms and values.
- **Stripes** – The 13 stripes of alternating red and white color represent the 13 original colonies.
- **Stars** – There are 50 white stars on a field of blue that represent the 50 states of the United States.

Today, the American Flag remains a powerful symbol of national pride and unity during celebrations as well as difficult times. We each have a responsibility to teach others of the proper respect and display of the American Flag. For more information about Flag etiquette and to read the U. S. Flag Code, visit vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette.

Involve your Community

- **Flag Education in the Schools** – Youth are the future of our country, and we must educate them about patriotism. Encourage your members to volunteer to go into classrooms, after school programs, homeschool groups, and other youth organizations to discuss respect of our flag.
- **Flag Retirement Ceremonies** – Hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony and invite the community to participate. Make it a teaching opportunity for those who have never seen one.
- **Outstanding Community Flag Display** – Acknowledge and present local individuals, businesses and organizations who take the time to display the American Flag properly with a certificate of appreciation from your Post and/or Auxiliary.
- **Promote Patriotic Holidays** – These holidays are the perfect opportunity to show the community that your Auxiliary supports patriotism and puts veterans and their families first.

Patriotic Holidays

U.S. 250th Birthday – October 13

U.S. Marine Corp 250th Birthday – November 10

U.S. Space Force – December 20

Veterans Day – November 11

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – December 7

Always ***“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today”***, as we travel ***“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans – Who Keep Us Free”***.