

Summer's almost over and school's back in session. From reports submitted it looks like patriotism is alive and well in Kansas. Thank you for the pictures! I pray your summer was filled with lots of FUN as you celebrated both patriotic and fun celebrations. Now's the time to get out in your community and check with the school counselor about opportunities to talk about how we can help them promote what being an American means, U S Flag etiquette and how to respect, raise, lower, & fold a flag. Don't forget to attend local sporting events to pass out Random Acts of Patriotism (RAP) cards to deserving youth and say YES if asked to help with flag ceremonies.

Nationally we recognize well-known patriotic holidays that support our country, communities, veterans and their families. I've challenged you to research lesser-known events to gather friends and family to study the history behind an event, educating others, and hosting a fun event. What will you celebrate? Don't forget to get the event approved at your meeting before celebrating... I'd love to see posters!!

As the days start to cool down, drive around your community and list businesses and others to thank for properly displaying and flying the U S Flag. Present them with a certificate and take lots of pictures. Or extend a helping hand by offering them a flag if theirs is in disrepair and needs retired properly. Assist your local Post with a flag retirement ceremony. And – REPORT! (This is me smiling 😊) For more ideas and information about Flag etiquette visit vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR OCTOBER:

- 7- Global War on Terrorism & Desert Storm Veterans Day
- 10-11 Eisenhower Vigil
- 13- Indigenous Peoples' Day / Columbus Day
- 17-25- NEEWOLLAH
- 26- Day of the Deployed
- 28- Statue of Liberty's Birthday
- 31- Halloween

Patriotic Instructors play an important role in the Auxiliary. They are responsible for practicing & learning VFW Auxiliary rituals and traditions; seeing that the room is in keeping with the Ritual; teaching members about giving the proper salute to the American Flag; educating members on the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance; and understanding the Federal Flag Code.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at VFW Auxiliary Mid-Summer Council of Administration and School of Instruction in Arkansas City on August 23. Don't forget to bring your completed July contest for a prize. Thank you to those who have added me to your Facebook pages. It's exciting to see what YOU are doing and how you serve our veterans and their families in your community. In Service, LaVeta Darbro

"In a room full of ROSES, be a SUNFLOWER" - SMILE !!