



## **Americanism**

*April 2025*

Happy Spring and Happy Easter coming up on April 20<sup>th</sup>!

We have two “lesser known” patriotic holidays I would like to share with you for the month of April—here they are:

### Gold Star Spouse Day April 5<sup>th</sup>

On April 5, 1945, a group of four widows met in New York City. One week later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died and shortly after, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt joined the organization. Eight months later, the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was chartered as a non-profit organization in December 1945.

Gold Star Wives Day was first commemorated on December 18, 2010, through a Senate resolution with support from the Gold Star Wives of America. It became a day to remember and pay respect to the surviving husbands and wives of the Fallen of the U.S. Armed Forces and thank them for all they've given. In 2012, the Senate passed a resolution officially designating April 5 as Gold Star Wives Day. More recently, this day is now observed as Gold Star Spouses Day.

Ways to remember the spouses of the fallen in your Auxiliary might include sending a card, making a phone call or visiting them in person. Treat them to coffee or lunch. Ask them if they might want to share stories about their spouse who gave their life for us and our nation.

### National Former POW Recognition Day April 9<sup>th</sup>

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is observed on April 9<sup>th</sup> each year, to honor the sacrifices of those who were held captive during wartime and those who remain missing in action. This date was chosen with a particular focus on the Bataan Death March of World War II, which began on April 9, 1942, and was covered in my March Promotional this year.

This special day reminds me of the Missing Man Table in our Post and so many VFW Posts all around the world. This April would be a great time to revisit the beautiful Missing Man Table Ceremony as found at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org). I have always loved this ceremony, which explains the symbolism of each item included in this enduring remembrance of those who were unable to return home from their deployments abroad where they fought for our freedom and to protect our homes and families.

I have learned so much this year as I researched all of the “lesser-known” holidays and observances we have in America, including some that I had never even known about before. I hope you enjoyed discovering some of these as well. Please report and tell me about some of your experiences sharing info with your Auxiliary and observing these special days. I would love to hear from you!

**Yours,**

***Marsha Short, Dept. of NM Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Chairman 2024-25***