

Americanism/Patriotic Instructor

August 2023

To all Dept. of New Mexico Auxiliary Americanism Chairmen and Patriotic Instructors, Officers, Members, and our National Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Ambassador Linda Roloff:



Here's hoping you all had an enjoyable and safe 4th of July with some excellent opportunities to celebrate our great country! Don't forget to tell me all about it in your report-- I am looking forward to hearing from you!

I was reading up on Americanism in our Auxiliary National Program Book for this year, and I was so impressed with the following information about Blue, Gold, and Silver Star families. I was a bit chagrined because I wasn't fully aware of all of this, and I actually grew up in a family with all three distinctions represented! I never knew that we could have been displaying these banners or flags in our home with pride—better late than never, as they say...Check this out from our Program Book:

“You may have seen a Blue Star, Gold Star, or Silver Star service flag or service banner in the window of a home in your area. A service flag or service banner is approved by the Secretary of Defense that family members of those serving in the United States Armed Forces can display.

- Blue Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a blue star for each family member serving in the United States Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities.
- Gold Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a gold star that represents a family member who died during military operations.
- Silver Star Families can display a flag or banner with a blue field, an outer red and inner white border, with a silver star that represents a family member who was injured, wounded, or became ill during or as a result of combat.

You are encouraged to recognize and honor these families in your community.”

Just had to share that with y'all, even though I may be the only one who didn't know.

Oh, yea, before I forget, don't forget to wish the Coast Guard a Happy Birthday this coming month of August. Here's what Google has to say about THAT: “August 4, 2023 marks the 233rd Birthday of the United States Coast Guard. “The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government. Established in 1790, the Coast Guard served as the nation's only armed force on the sea until Congress launched the Navy Department eight years later.”

Can you tell I am obsessed with looking up all kinds of “nuggets of knowledge” about our country and its history? I'll be sending out more info about special days to celebrate in the next Americanism promo. Meanwhile, hope to see a lot of you at trainings August 12th (ABQ, Post 401) and August 26th (Las Cruces, Post 6917).

Yours in Service,

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