

Americanism/Patriotic Instructor



FEBRUARY 2025

Greetings to our NM Dept. Officers, Auxiliary Chairpersons, members, & National Ambassador Katlyn Burke

Question of the month—What's the deal with Washington's Birthday?

Raise your hand if you remember when George Washington's Birthday was celebrated by **EVERYONE** on February 22nd and we all ate cherry pie to celebrate. Fun fact: the story of a young George chopping down the cherry tree that illustrated the importance of honesty was **COMPLETELY** made up!! Regardless, our country celebrated Washington's birthday for a very long time on the 22nd of this month, and later Abraham Lincoln's celebration was added to our official February Presidential Birthday fun on the 12th. In 1968, when the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill was passed, it was proposed that we move Washington's Birthday to the third Monday in February. It was also proposed that Lincoln's birthday be included, as well. But **THAT** part of the bill did **NOT** pass Congress. Nevertheless, many states adopted the idea and even renamed the holiday President's Day, to celebrate **ALL** Presidents of our country, for more added holiday fun. However, several states decided to be party poopers and not recognize the holiday **AT ALL**, and this remains so even to this day. I am no longer sure where I am going with all this, but I hereby proclaim President's Day as the most confusing of America's holidays. **HAHA!!** But you may feel free to celebrate it as you will, because we **DO** commemorate President's Day in New Mexico—and I would love to hear about any events or cherry-pie related fun you enjoy this year! And don't forget to report any and all patriotic celebrations you have had throughout the year so far, especially for "lesser-known" holidays, our theme for Americanism this year. 😊

Finally, check out the Americanism Award offered for the most outstanding activity and/or event educating your community about lesser-known patriotic holidays. To find the Entry Form for this award, go to our NM state website at <https://vfwauxnm.org/>, click on Resources, and on page 11 of the National Program Book is the form that you can send to me by email or print and send it by snail mail if you prefer (5254 Apache Trail, Las Cruces, NM 88012). You have until March 31st to share your event for a chance to win \$25 and National recognition for our State and your Auxiliary.

That's all for now. I am sending lots of Valentine month love to you all, until next time!

Always yours in service,

Marsha Short

Dept. of NM Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Chairman 2024-25