



VFWA NEW MEXICO
AMERICANISM PROGRAM
Kristin Saavedra Program Chair 2026-2027



VFW Auxiliary National Ambassador - Jessica Gardner
VFW State Auxiliary President - Michelle Dennisson
VFW State Auxiliary Secretary - Betty Decker

Hello,

My name is Kristin Saavedra, and I am an Auxiliary member of Estancia Valley Post 3370 in Moriarty, NM. My eligibility is through my late husband, Orland Saavedra, an Afghanistan and Iraq (OIFII) Veteran. I am proud to have been appointed as the Americanism Chairperson for 26/27.

The Americanism Program is one of the most visible ways we fulfill our mission of fostering patriotism in our communities. Every flag properly displayed, every student encouraged to learn about our nation's history, and every veteran recognized for their service helps strengthen the values upon which our country was founded.

As we continue our work, I encourage every Auxiliary to expand its Americanism efforts by promoting activities such as:

- Conducting U.S. Flag education and etiquette presentations for schools, civic organizations, and community groups.
- Organizing Constitution Week and Bill of Rights educational events.
- Recognizing students who demonstrate outstanding citizenship and patriotism.
- Encouraging participation in VFW youth scholarship programs, including Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy.
- Hosting community flag retirement ceremonies in accordance with proper protocol.
- Partnering with local schools, Scout troops, ROTC and JROTC units, and community organizations to promote civic engagement.
- Supporting Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Patriot Day observances.
- Encouraging citizens to proudly display the American flag and understand the meaning behind our national symbols.
- Recognizing military families, first responders, and community members who exemplify service and patriotism.

Every Auxiliary has the opportunity to make a lasting impact, whether through a large public event or a simple act of educating one person about the importance of our nation's history and values. Collectively, these efforts strengthen the bond between our veterans, our youth, and our communities.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to preserving the principles of patriotism and Americanism. Together, we can continue inspiring pride in our nation while honoring those who have defended the freedoms we enjoy.