

# Americanism/Patriotic Instructor

*July 2024*

**HAPPY “NEW YEAR”!!**



**After a great Department Convention,**

**I am so ready to start our 2024-25 Auxiliary year!**

**I want to thank our Department President, Renee King, for giving me the opportunity to continue as your Americanism chairman for the Department of New Mexico this year. Everyone who knows me knows how much I love my country, our great organization, and my home state of New Mexico. When I can serve all of these and work alongside so many of my VFW Auxiliary brothers and sisters, I feel so blessed and humbled. And I am really looking forward to getting to know this year’s National Ambassador, Katlyn Burke, too—as I hope to be going to National for the 1<sup>st</sup> time at the end of this month!**

**I think, most of all, I am excited to get to know each of our Auxiliary Americanism Chairmen around the state. I always love hearing about all the creative, fun, and inspiring ways that you show your love of our country and its veterans at your posts, as you commemorate patriotic holidays and remembrances. This year we have a special task to focus on “lesser known” holidays. I can’t wait to elaborate on these in future messages, and look forward to sharing YOUR ideas with others, too! I know how much you do for your Auxiliary and Post members, and hope to hear from you each month, if possible-- either by email, snail mail, or through our reporting system at <https://vfwauxnm.org>.**

**I have always loved expressing my feelings about my country through music, art, and the spoken word. I believe a big part of this is because, since I was very young, my family’s devotion to serving our country has always been evident. Being the daughter of a World War II purple heart veteran, the great niece of two Korean War veterans (one of whom gave the full measure of devotion to his country and did not return to us), and little sister to my Vietnam veteran brother (also a purple heart recipient), I have always strongly felt a duty to support veterans and families like my own.**

**In my adult life, I was blessed to have had the experience of teaching American History to my Elementary and later Middle School students during my career as an educator. I was honored to carry on the legacy of so many brave patriots who gave so much through telling their stories and teaching their contributions to our history. I always hoped I could pass on to our young citizens a desire to help keep our country’s traditions alive and that they, too would want to find ways to honor our veterans.**

**Many thanks to those of you who will be serving as chairmen. Let’s all have a great year of celebration, commemoration, service, and FUN showing our love for our country and each other as proud VFW Auxiliary members, chairmen, and officers!!**

**Yours in Service,**

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

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