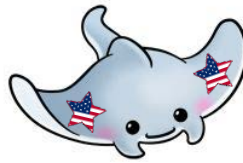


AMERICANISM

THE PATRIOTIC MANTA RAYS



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017



Greetings

and Happy New Year to All! In this issue we will cover a few ways that we can promote Americanism in the community and among ourselves. Also included in this issue is an Essay Contest Review Sheet for members to keep handy.

FLAG REPLACEMENT POSTCARDS

Here is an excellent way to discreetly let a neighbor or a member of the community know that their flag needs replacing. These postcards can be ordered at <http://emblem.legion.org>. Go the extra mile by customizing your postcards to include your Post address on the back. This makes the recipient's search for a local post and drop off location easier, and also shows that we are reaching out. The phrase on the back of the postcard reads:

I am your country's flag.

I was proud to serve you, but now I am worn and tired. Please repair me, and/or replace me with a strong new flag of which you can be proud.

Please take me to your local American Legion Post so that they may dispose of me with honor and dignity.

Thank you for being a patriotic American.



I am your country's flag. I was proud to serve you, but now I am worn and tired. Please repair me, and/or replace me with a strong new flag of which you can be proud. Please take me to your local American Legion Post, so that they may dispose of me with honor and dignity. Thank you for being a patriotic American.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



HONORING THEIR SERVICE BUTTONS

Custom buttons can be created for Auxiliary members or anyone else with a photo of a special veteran in their life. It can be any photo - a military photo, a candid current shot or a favorite image in any environment.

See Application Form for details.

FEBRUARY 22 PRESIDENTS' DAY

Presidents' Day and Washington's Birthday are both celebrated on the 3rd Monday in February. This Federal holiday was originally designated as George Washington's Birthday, and was observed on February 22nd. In 1968 legislation was enacted that shifted the observed date shifted to the 3rd Monday in February, and rolled in Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, and also includes all that have served as President of the United States.

FLAG STAR CUT OUTS

In the February 2017 edition of the ALA Magazine, a piece was featured regarding the cutting up and use of the embroidered stars of the American Flag. Many Units are cutting the stars out of retired flags and distributing them to troops and veterans in plastic bags with thank you notes. The stars are sometimes sewn to articles of clothing. Both the American Legion and ALA do not endorse nor support this practice. The flag began as whole, and must remain whole until it becomes unserviceable, and then disposed of properly in its entirety.



UNSERVICEABLE: The American Legion Auxiliary does not promote the cutting of American flags for unit Americanism activities.

AMERICANISM CONTACT INFO

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ESSAY CONTEST REVIEW SHEET

ESSAY CONTEST KEY POINTS

NOTE: Copies of the Americanism Essay Contest Rules have been sent to each unit, free of charge. Additional copies are available for \$2 from the Department Office. The PDF format can also be download at:

http://www.calegionaux.org/americanism/essay_contest_instructions.pdf

GET LOCAL SCHOOLS INVOLVED.

Promote Americanism within the community by approaching local schools to add the essay contest to their curriculum. The sooner you get schools involved the better! Remember, we have 5 categories this year, so make sure you cover all the areas!

LOOK OUTSIDE THE BOX.

Did you know home school, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout troops also qualify to join the essay contest? Let's get these kids involved too!

CONTEST INFORMATION.

Whenever possible, speak with the teachers and/or coordinators directly and go over the rules of the contest. Be sure to remind everyone interested that there are cash awards! Share the list of awards and contest categories with them.

CONTACT INFORMATION.

Remember to also leave adequate contact information with the schools and participants incase they have any questions, or want to submit an entry: your name, email, phone number, a mailing address, etc.

BUILD A UNIT COMMITTEE.

Together you can determine the Awards, judge the essays, and track the results. All essays will be judged per the essay score sheet; three judges required. First Place Winners will be submitted to the District for further competition.



ESSAY CONTEST IMPORTANT DATES

1st Friday in March:

Unit picks up essays from schools.



3rd Friday in March:

Unit to forward winner only in each group to District Chairman for judging



3rd Friday in April:

District Chairman to forward winner only in each group to Department for judging.

DEPARTMENT ESSAY CONTEST SUMMARY

There are 5 Categories of Americanism essays for the following groups, each with awards and prizes!

- 1) **Grades 4-5:** "What does patriotism mean to me?" 200-300 words
- 2) **Grades 6-7:** "Why is it important to vote?" 200-300 words
- 3) **Grades 8-9:** "What does Freedom mean to me?" 250-400 words
- 4) **Grades 10-11-12:** "What are my duties as a citizen?" 300-500 words
- 5) **Exceptional Needs:** "What does the American Flag Mean to me?" 25 words or more

NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

"How did learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?"

PLEASE REVIEW

Please review the Americanism Essay Contest Instructions and Rules