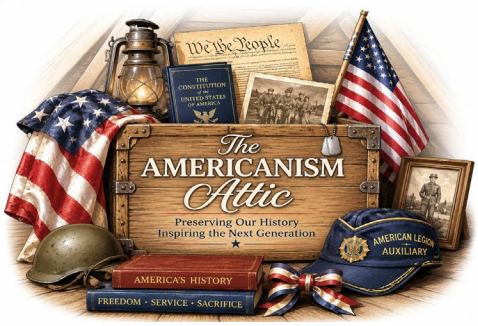
American Legion Department of Arizona
Americanism Attic
Preserving Our History · Inspiring Our Next Generation
November 2026 | Bulletin



Welcome to the Attic, climb those stairs and come up! Let's see what we can pull out of the Attic this month.

BE A BEACON FOR OUR VETERANS

The 2026–2027 Americanism Essay Contest theme is: **"How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?"**

Now is the time to contact your schools! Reach out to teachers, counselors, homeschool groups, youth organizations, and your American Legion Family youth. Give students plenty of time to participate.

Department Deadline: March 13, 2027 (electronic or postmarked by U.S. mail)

Be sure to review the **NEW** contest rules! AI may not be used to write essays, and essays will be checked for AI use. Also check the word-count requirements and make sure the required cover sheet is filled out completely. Start now so your Unit has time to collect its essays, select its winners, and get everything submitted by the deadline.

Remember: You don't have to wait for a school to come to you—take Americanism to the school! Don't forget about "Star Spangles Kids"! Star Spangled Kids

AMERICANISM IS EVERY DAY

Americanism doesn't have to be a separate event—and it doesn't have to happen only on a special day. We are Americans every day. Our freedom is worth celebrating every day.

Already planning a dinner, party, parade, youth activity, meeting, or community event? Look for one simple way to add Americanism.

- A patriotic coloring page | A flag fact | A veteran recognition | A patriotic reading | A few trivia questions | Cards for veterans | Take a quick moment to talk with our youth about what our flag represents.

Don't create another event—add a little Americanism to what you're already doing!

WHAT'S COMING OUT OF THE ATTIC for November and December?

NOVEMBER

10th – American Legion Auxiliary Birthday & United States Marine Corps Birthday | 11th — Veterans Day | 26th Thanksgiving Day – Don't forget to take pictures and share what you are doing to promote Americanism.

DECEMBER
7th — Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day | 13th — National Guard Birthday |
15th — Bill of Rights Day | 20th — U.S. Space Force Birthday | 25th — Christmas

Already having a Christmas party? Add a little Americanism! Include a patriotic children's activity, recognize veterans in attendance, make cards for veterans or servicemembers, or share a little piece of American history.



LOOKING AHEAD...

January and February will be here before we know it! Start thinking about ways to incorporate patriotism, citizenship, flag education, American history, and the Americanism Essay Contest into activities you already have planned. Don't forget these days; MLK Day – January 18th | Four Chaplains Day – February 3rd | President's Day – February 15th | Lincoln's Birthday – February 12th | Washington's Birthday – February 22nd | Iwo Jima Flag Raising Day, February 23; these are all part of American history. More information to come in December.

Resources for your use: American Legion website: legion.org | AL Auxiliary website:alaforveterans.org

National Archives: Archieves.gov/founding-docs and Archives.gov/news/topics **AND** if you are looking for activities or educational ideas, visit the Library of Congress website at: www.loc.gov/education for free info

What is your Unit doing to inspire Americanism?
I want to hear from you!

Did you promote the essay contest? Teach flag etiquette? Recognize veterans? Participate in a parade?

Your idea(s) could help inspire other units!

Send me your Unit info! Let's get you recognized!

Don't forget President Marge's Special Project!

Information from the National Americanism Q1 meeting, 10/8/2026

I attended the Q1 Zoom meeting and boy, let me tell you **Americanism is alive and well across the country!** During our breakout sessions (by Division) we discussed how our Departments are promoting Americanism. When we came back together, each Division shared one or two standout ideas or activities. There were so many great ideas! One interesting idea from the Southern Division really caught my attention. A Unit was planning to collaborate with its local community to celebrate the Statue of Liberty's Birthday (officially her Dedication Day) on October 28th. **How did I miss that?** I LOVE Lady Liberty! I have so many pictures from my visit, and one is even my phone's screensaver. There were many more ideas shared that I'll bring to you in December's *Americanism Attic*.
Sometimes the best ideas are things we haven't even thought of yet!

ONE LAST THING BEFORE WE HEAD BACK DOWNSTAIRS...

Americanism isn't something we pull out for Patriot's Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Flag Day and then put back into a box.

Americanism is every day.

We honor our country by teaching our youth, respecting our flag, remembering our history, supporting our veterans, appreciating our freedoms, and sharing those values with the next generation.

So, head back downstairs, take a little Americanism with you, and see where you can sprinkle it into something your Unit is already doing! See you up in the *Attic* next month!

In unity for God and Country, Service, Not Self
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