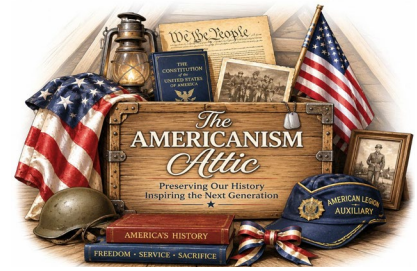


American Legion Department of Arizona
Americanism Attic
Preserving Our History · Inspiring Our Next Generation
September 2026 | Bulletin



September provides us with many opportunities to remember our nation's history, honor those who have served and sacrificed, and teach the next generation what it means to be an American.

As American Legion Auxiliary members, Americanism is more than displaying the flag on patriotic holidays. It is helping others understand the freedoms we enjoy, remembering those who defended those freedoms, and encouraging our youth to become informed citizens.

This month consider how your Unit can turn one – or several – of these important observances into opportunities for **service, education, remembrance, and youth involvement**.

September 11 – Patriot Day – A Day We Will Never Forget

Patriot Day is a time to remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001, honor the first responders and others who answered the call to serve, and reflect upon the unity our nation demonstrated following that tragic day.

- Display flags or encourage members and community businesses to fly the American flag.
- Recognize local firefighters, law enforcement, EMT's and other first responders, invite your Unit and youth to write thank you notes or cards.
- Observe an appropriate moment of remembrance/silence.

September 17-23 – Constitution Week

September 17th marks the anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787 and was designated "Citizenship Day" on February 29, 1952, by the U.S. Congress. Constitution Week gives us a wonderful opportunity to help our members learn more about the document that established the framework for our government and the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.

- Consider reading the Preamble to the US Constitution in your Unit meeting and/or making copies available to your members.
- For youth you could include a Constitution trivia game, coloring or activity pages, a discussion about the Bill of Rights, or ask children what being a "good citizen" means to them. Don't forget to get your high school students excited about the **Oratorical Contest**.

September 18 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day

On the third Friday of September, Americans pause to remember our prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action. This is an excellent opportunity to talk about:

- POW/MIA - Missing Man Table – explain the meaning of the display, many may see or have seen the table but do not understand the symbolism represented by each item.
- Invite youth to the Post to see the table and explain the symbolism of the items.

September 18 – U.S. Air Force Birthday

The United States Air Force was established as a separate branch of the Armed Forces on September 18, 1947.

- Take a moment this month to recognize Air Force veterans and active-duty service members of your Unit, Post family and community.
- A simple task for youth would be to ask them to learn about the different branches of the United States Armed Forces and recognize that they each have an “established date” or birthday.

As always, remember President Marge’s Special Project as a time to engage our youth in Americanism it doesn’t have to be a lecture, **make it about learning while having fun!** September gives us several opportunities to do just that!

What is your Unit doing?

I would love to hear how your Unit is promoting Americanism!

Send in your stories and photos. Tell us what you did and what you are planning for next month. Your idea may inspire another Unit to try something new in its own community AND you could be featured in next month’s bulletin!

Resources you can use this month:

Patriot Day – 9/11Memorial.org

Constitution Week – www.constitutionweekusa.com

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/Star-Spangled-Kids-Kits>

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>

LOOKING AHEAD – START PLANNING NOW!

October 13th US Navy Birthday | **October 26th** – National Day of the Deployed | **October 31st** Halloween, this may not seem patriotic but many things can be incorporated, look for next month’s bulletin for ideas! | **November 11th** Veterans Day | **November 26th** Thanksgiving – An opportunity to explore American history while promoting gratitude, service and community.

In unity for God and Country, Service, Not Self

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