



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th St. #314 St Paul MN 55155
Telephone 651-224-7634 Fax 651-224-5243
Toll Free 1-888-217-9598
Email – deptoffice@mnala.org
Website - www.mnala.org

AMERICANISM

November/December 2018

Greetings!

As we are in the beginnings of another football season, I wanted to share some information with you that you can take back into your communities and start a dialogue about our National Anthem and our flag.

I feel that we are in a unique place to help educate our communities about Americanism. Below are listed several points taken from our US Flag Code that I found worthwhile to share:

- The flag code is the guide for all handling and display of the Stars and Stripes. **It does not impose penalties** for misuse of the United States Flag. That is left to the states, and to the federal government for the District of Columbia. Each state has its own flag law.
- The Supreme Court has struck down two Flag Protection Acts because they were deemed unconstitutional; once in 1989 and again in 1990.
 - This is a great time to mention that this refers to the protection under our First Amendment Freedom of Speech. But, it should also be stressed that the First Amendment protects us against retaliation from the government when we speak out against them. It doesn't mean there won't be any repercussions in the private sector.

This is also the time to begin planning for your unit's Veterans' Day Program. This is sometimes the only day that average Americans think about the sacrifices our veterans have made. Below are some ideas you can use with your unit:

- Host a Veterans Day breakfast or luncheon, with reduced price for veterans
- Contact your local schools about participating in their Veteran's Day programs
- At your meeting, try a new patriotic song; a favorite is the Armed Services Medley
- Our Department President's theme is Veteran's Are Our Stars, create stars that thank the veterans in our lives (Eg: I would create a star for my grandfather Roy, who served in the USAF during the Korean War)
- Read In Flanders Field at your meeting
- Arrange a visit at a VA Home or Hospital closest to you
- Remember that veteran's aren't just men. There are many, many women who have served our county.

Veteran's Day is on a Sunday in 2018. If you are planning on participating in your schools Veteran's Day programs, please make sure you contact your school to find out when they are having their programs; as it won't be on Veteran's Day this year.

Bethany Dickert - Americanism Chairman