

BULLETIN – JULY 2023



AMERICANISM

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As I began to work on this article during the first week of June, many movies on TV commemorated the anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 1944. The Battle of Normandy was fought on the beaches of France with The Allied Forces achieving victory, but with 4,415 Allied soldiers dying; 2,502 were U.S. servicemen. It was considered an important step in the defeat of Germany because it weakened their position in France and established a stronghold to advance into that part of Europe. The tremendous effort of cooperation with as many as 13 countries was unprecedented and changed the course of WWII. It also renews my respect and appreciation for those who have served, not just in this war, but all of the foreign wars before and after WWII. Those who have served (and their families) have truly made many sacrifices.

Patriotism is being proud of our country's virtues and eager to correct its deficiencies- working to see that our country is righteous as well as strong. It creates a feeling of responsibility. Congressman Patrick McHenry (N.C.) said "Patriotism inspires us. It unites us. It fills our hearts with pride and optimism." Serving our Veterans is a patriotic calling. Simple acts of patriotism occur every day. They might not make the headlines, but they help strengthen our communities and nation. The things that you and your Auxiliary do to promote patriotism may be quiet and simple, but they are important to our communities and our Veterans.

Set some goals for your program this year. First, promote patriotism by celebrating some (or all) of our patriotic holidays. These celebrations can easily involve the whole family and they can serve as the perfect way to support Veterans and their people. Second, champion flag etiquette and education: in the schools and the community. Third, encourage the use of these words to strengthen their impact on your audience; Prisoner of War, Missing in Action, and Killed in Action. Host a special program, share their stories, meet their families, and participate in any ceremonies around the state honoring POW/MIAs. Fourth, strengthen your Auxiliaries by encouraging respect between members and helping them understand the traditions and rituals of the organization. Make your Post and Auxiliary a safe haven for our Veterans and their supporters. Your MALTA resources can help.

For those of you that were not able to attend our Department Convention, I would like to share some things that stood out to me.

1. There is a wealth of available knowledge in our line officers, appointed officers, District Presidents and Past Presidents, and members who attended this year's convention. Don't be backward about asking for help!

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2. We have many very talented and hardworking members who are doing a stand-up job of representing our Auxiliary.
3. Members who do not attend convention are missing out on education, shared information, socializing, and comradery. Finally, we are loud, we are proud, we have fun, and we love our Veterans.

After you have celebrated the patriotic holidays, (check the program or MALTA for more information on the days), presented your flag information, and participated in any ceremonies honoring Veterans past and present; be sure to report that information on the X sheet to receive credit for your hard work. The work you do does not go unnoticed.