

***“Our Mission - Joining Hands with Our Veterans”***

Tennessee Department VFW Auxiliary  
Americanism Program  
2020-21

***“Help Spread the Fire of Patriotism!”***

Hello, my name is David King! It was an honor to have been offered the position of Department Lead for the Americanism Program for the upcoming year of 2020-21. My background has given me a wonderful perspective on promoting Americanism in our state and local communities.

I graduated from Indiana University; Bloomington, IN. My first job was teaching Biology, Life Science and General Science at Greenwood High School, Greenwood, IN, in 1976. I taught and coached four years at that wonderful high school. I moved to Lafayette, LA in 1981 where I entered the Oil Industry and eventually retired from Consulting with ExxonMobil in September of 2019. My work with ExxonMobil allowed me to travel around the world for about 20 years of my career. When I tell you, we live in the greatest country in the world, I do not make that statement lightly. It has been after years of travel to other countries, have I been able to form my perspective of American Exceptionalism. Now through our Auxiliaries we have the opportunity to teach and make a difference in our state and local communities.

My philosophy in business and life has been to *Keep Things Simple*, which will be what I propose to do with our Department Americanism Program. I believe strongly we need to have a presence in our local businesses and schools. We need to have our finger on the heart-beat of our schools especially reviewing the content of History textbooks used in our local school systems.

The students of today have been and will be bombarded with news headlines on their smartphones and other social media. Without a good foundation of how our government was designed, first, by the writing of the Declaration of Independence and secondly the formation of the Constitution of the United States the future leaders of our country could be persuaded to work against our American Way of Life.

***“Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans”***


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I have learned over the course of my life that Goals have been the difference between success and failure not only in my life, but the lives of others. If we learn to clearly and precisely write down our goals, it will tremendously enhance our chances of achieving those goals.

**“Help Spread the Fire of Patriotism!”**

**First and foremost, we need to celebrate our Country’s Patriotic National Holidays in our respective communities:**

• Flag Day		June 14
• Fourth of July		July 4
• Patriot Day		September 11
• POW/MIA		3rd Friday Sept.
• Gold Star Mother’s & Family Day		Last Sunday Sept.
• Veteran’s Day		Nov. 11
• Pearl Harbor Day		Dec. 7
• Loyalty Day		May 1
• Armed Forces Day		3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday May
• Memorial Day		May 30

If you fail to plan you plan to fail! Start early on these National Holidays by planning educational and fun activities with your communities and families. For example, promote a “Family Freedom Festival.”

**“Help Spread the Fire of Patriotism!”**

**Honor our great teachers by nominating the best for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.**

- Elementary K-5
- Middle School 6-8
- High School 9-12

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Just like the quote from Angel's in the Outfield, "It could happen." Your Post/Auxiliary could sponsor the Post Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year, that teacher could become the District Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year, that teacher could become the Department Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year and finally that teacher could become the National Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year. Believe me, "It could happen" at your Post, because it happened at ours just a couple of years ago! We were honored to have sponsored the first ever National winner of this award from the State of Tennessee. What an honor to have found that special teacher who would later become the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award winner at the National Level.

How do you find teachers in your local communities? Simply attend functions at your local schools, so you can find and submit your teacher of the year applicants in the three categories. Our good teachers need to be recognized for the great job they done in our community schools. Hint - Do not leave brochures with school receptionist! Rules and eligibility requirements can be found at: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year>

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**Flags**



Hand out flags at school convocations. Woodman Insurance and Ace Hardware Stores will donate flags for school aged children activities like parades and convocations.

Flag folding ceremony. You will find the information on the meaning of the folds of the flag on the internet, but that little bit of information about the meaning of the folds will capture the attention of the adults and students.

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#### **Erect Flags in your Community**



Find an area where you would like to erect a number of flags then ask permission, find community sponsors to help with the process, contact an Eagle Scout Group to help erect the flags. Involve as many organizations and people in the community as possible this helps to build Patriotism and allows your Post gain recognition in your local community.

#### **Ceremonial Flag Disposal**

Take the opportunity to teach not only students, but also adults the proper way to dispose of the American flag with dignity and honor.

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#### **Americanism Awards for 2020-21**

Auxiliary Post Participation in 50% of the Patriotic National Holidays will be a prerequisite to qualifying for the Americanism Monetary Award.

Top Three Auxiliary Awards for Participation in National Holidays and flag education in the community

1<sup>st</sup> place \$25

2<sup>nd</sup> place \$15

3<sup>rd</sup> place \$10

We reserve the right to add awards as we see fit during the course of the year.

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