Toni Plemmons – Americanism Officer 12550 NW 90th Avenue Chiefland, FL 32626 352-317-4166 Itzm20@aol.com

Americanism is love and loyalty of and to our country, with an eagerness to defend our country from all enemies, our undivided allegiance to the flag and a desire to protect our rights and freedoms as Americans.

The Americanism programs will give schools and youth organizations resources for teaching children in kindergarten through 12th grade about their American heritage, civics and citizenship.

We can promote Americanism by presenting flags and information to schools, institutions and other youth groups. Have flag folding programs, promote our Flag Poster and Essay contests, and send a ninth grade student to AMVETS National Youth Leadership Seminar held at Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge in November.

Americanism projects include but are not limited to:

- 1. Freedoms Foundation National Program at Valley Forge, PA that will educate students and teachers, inspiring them to preserve and advance American freedoms and demonstrate civic responsibility.
- 2. Fisher House AMVETS Dept. of Florida Program- Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veteran families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital.
- 3. AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Flag Poster and Essay contest offers schools and youth organizations as a resource for teaching children in kindergarten through 12th grade about their American heritage, civics and citizenship. The program includes flag drawing, poster and essay contests that are grade specific and age appropriate.
- 4. Serve our Servicemen and Women SOS. This is on the local level. Helping our servicemen and women whether it is taking them to appointments, grocery shopping or something bigger such as help around the house and yard. Maybe cooking a meal for a veteran, sending coupons overseas to our military personnel or sending used postage stamps for wounded veterans to aid with their dexterity.

You can collect and send coupons, stamps, and cell phones to aid or assist veterans or military members/families. Participate in patriotic parades, or even sponsor pen pals in foreign countries.

You can find more information and ideas in the Auxiliary Manual. Don't forget to apply for the various awards!

National awards:

- 1. PNP Heidi Dieen-Serpis Award for the Department doing the most outstanding work in Americanism.
- 2. PNP Patty Piening Award local auxiliary doing the most outstanding in Americanism.
- 3. Award for Individual Members for the member doing the most outstanding work in Americanism.

Department of FL local awards:

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- 1. PDP Donnajeanne Hackler Americanism Award- Awarded to the Auxiliary showing the most Interesting program/project for an Americanism Project to be presented in booklet form.
- 2. Freedoms Foundation Awards- Awarded to the Auxiliary with the largest cash donation for Freedoms Foundation.
- 3. PNP Dee Baggett 2nd place Award Freedoms Foundation Award- Awarded to the Auxiliary with the largest per member donation to Freedoms Foundation.
- 4. PDP Dorothy Johns Americanism Chairman Award-Awarded to the local Americanism Chairman demonstrating ability in forming committees to successfully complete projects and in forwarding legible and correct service reports promptly to the Department Chairman.
- 5. PNP Dee Baggett 2nd place Award Freedoms Foundation Award- (Auxiliary) with the largest cash donation for Freedoms Foundation.
- 6. Freedoms Foundation Awards- Awarded to the Auxiliary with the largest per member donation for Freedoms Foundation.
- 7. PDP Mary Lous Maslo FISHER HOUSE AWARD- Presented to the Auxiliary donating the most money to an OPERATING Fisher House.

A few ideas for aiding our military veterans and their families:

TROOPONS®

Merchant coupons, expired up to 6 months can still be used by our troops at overseas stores on bases. Simply mail your coupons the cheapest way you can to us, and we will make sure they get to the troops.

Mail your coupons to:

Support Our Troops[®]
P.O. Box 70
Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0070

Stamps for the Wounded

Postage stamps saved from the mail, philatelic materials from stamp collections, unused stamps purchased from the post office, collector supplies and cash donations.

For more information: https://www.stampsforthewounded.org

Cell Phones for Soldiers

Cell Phones for Soldiers is a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing cost-free communication services and emergency funding to active-duty military members and veterans.

For more information and shipping instructions: info@cellphonesforsoldiers.com