

Hello Arizona,

As this year continues to fly by us, we must keep in mind the deadline for the Auxiliary submissions for a National Citation for the Americanism Program. Auxiliaries have until March 31, 2026 to have the required entry form for me as the Department Americanism Chairman.

The award will be given to the “Auxiliary with the most outstanding activity or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag”.

Looking forward to some holidays and days of recognition to come, which will give opportunities to show patriotism:

2/16 Presidents Day

3/3 Star-Spangled Banner Day

3/13 K-9 Veterans Day

3/21 Rosie the Riveter Day

3/29 Vietnam Veterans Day

As National Vietnam War Day (3/29) approaches I was curious on how our Vietnam Veterans felt when someone thanked them for their service. As most of us know, our Veterans were not treated kindly when they returned. So, I was curious to learn how some feel now. It is my great fortune to work at the Department of Arizona VFW Headquarters which gives me the opportunity to speak to many of our Veterans as they come in. Recently, when I greeted them, I asked if they would not mind answering a question for me. I was surprised almost all had about the same response.

The question I asked was, “How does it make you feel when a person Thanks you for your service? And how do you respond?”

There were quite a few who told me they appreciated the person recognized their service and many would respond with, “You’re welcome.”

Others responded in ways that touched me and honestly brought tears to my eyes. Here are a few:

“It was my privilege to serve.”

“By the grace of God, I was able to serve for you”,
and the one that touched me most,
“You were worth it”.

All our Veterans have given so much. Take a moment, thank them sincerely and let them know you appreciate the sacrifices they made for all of us.

Americanism: “Unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, undivided allegiance to the Flag, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.”