

## Youth December 2025

*“If you can read this, Thank a teacher. If you can read this in English, thank a Veteran”*- a quote attributed to the 33<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, WWI Veteran of the National Guard and US Army.

As we turn the corner into a New Year, what an inspirational way to bring to light “Patriotism through Literacy” the reading “book” program supported by the National VFW Auxiliary to share patriotism with Youth. Suggested books, some written by Veterans and Auxiliary Members, for youth, divided into categories for grades Pre K to 12. [patriotism\\_through\\_literacy.pdf](#)

As we have come off the Angel Tree tradition, how about bringing into the Post or the local School, Community Center or Senior Center a “Literacy Tree” with the books, suggested grade level, basic cost as an invitation for others to become involved in literacy for our Arizona students. Post 7968 has a good start, look where there are featured in the National Auxiliary Magazine (November 27<sup>th</sup> issue). Arizona, currently, is listed as 46<sup>th</sup> in the Nation in literacy. “Reading Buddies”, another way for Veterans and Auxiliary members to participate in the Youth Program, encourages Veterans read to Youth and Youth read to Veterans.

If your Auxiliary visits a Senior Center or Assisted Living Home- they are FULL of Veterans and Veteran Families. What an exceptional way for Scouts, Schools, grandchildren, homeschool groups to share and interact with residents/attendees.

Placing the \*first book\* in a child’s hands can last a lifetime:  
“I will not eat them with a goat; I will not eat them in a boat. I will not eat them here nor there, I will not eat them anywhere. I will not eat green eggs and ham, I will not eat them, Sam I am.” Dr. Suess. Quoted from the first book some of us had learned to read.

Give the gift of literacy. A New Year’s Resolution easy to keep!