

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

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Citizenship Education is an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to posterity and ourselves. Today, Citizenship Education is still around, but not everywhere. That is why the Veterans of Foreign Wars must promote Citizenship Education wherever and whenever we can. The VFW's Citizenship Education Program is designed to stimulate an interest in America's history, its traditions and institutions, as well as promote patriotism.

In promoting patriotism, we should educate our youth about the importance of three special days in remembrance of our great country; Loyalty Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars started the observance of May 1st as Loyalty Day in the 1930's as a deterrent to the anti-American activities of Communist agitators during parades in our country. It proved to be very effective and was, after many years, officially recognized and signed into law in 1958.

Memorial Day is about remembering. This day is and should remain, sacred for all veterans.

Veterans Day is a special day for VFW members. Unlike Memorial Day, it is a time to remember all veterans-both living and dead and their sacrifices. It should not be a day of sadness, but a time of pride and reflection on what veterans have accomplished and the true freedoms they have protected.

Post and District Chairman should refer to the National VFW Programs Guide "It's About Service"

Citizenship Education materials are available from VFW Emblem and Supply, or by visiting www.vfwdepartmentresources.org

All activities should be reported on-line via the Department website under **Citizenship Education** at <http://www.vfwca.org/membertools/programform12rpt.html> **and** by submitting a report (Form-12) to the Department Chairman.

***Important!* – To qualify for state awards, a Post must send a copy of the program reporting (Form 12) with all applicable attachments to the Department Chairman.**

AWARDS

Awards will be presented at the State Convention.

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall (Post & District) will be awarded a plaque, based on Chairman Recommendation.

OUTSTANDING POST AND AUXILIARY AWARD – THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD

The Thomas Jefferson Award will be presented to the Post and Auxiliary at the State Convention who, WORKING TOGETHER, complete the most outstanding program of Citizenship Education during the reporting year.