

July Article

Americanism

Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

I would like to introduce myself to you. I am the Americanism Chairperson for the Department of Oregon. My name is Deb Duggan and I am very excited about this Program. I thought I knew about Americanism but after reading through what my National Ambassador has written about Americanism I found some very interesting subjects that I did not know about. My first article I am going to focus on the STAR families. We all have seen the Blue Stars hanging in windows.

BLUE Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a blue star for each family member serving in the United States Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities.

GOLD Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and red border, with a gold star that represents a family member who died during military operations.

SILVER Star Families – this one I had never heard of so was surprised – can display a flag or banner with a blue, an outer red and inner white border, with a silver star that represents a family member who was injured, wounded, or became ill during or as a result of combat.

Recognize these families and honor these families in your community. The Silver Star is a bit difficult to find but we all know many that deserve this flag/banner. You can find an application for the Silver Star on numerous websites by typing IN Silver Star Banner, in whichever browser you use. The Blue Star and the Gold Star banner are easily found at the VFW Store. Take a moment and read about what these Stars mean. Recognize your local families that display them. In MALTA Member Resources there are numerous citations that you can utilize for recognition of community members.

Each article I will be doing will contain at least one way you can recognize people or businesses that display Patriotism in your community. Read the Year-End Report and what our National Ambassador has to say about Americanism. This is what I will be looking for on each report.

Wishing you all a wonderful year and looking forward to getting all your reports.

Deb Duggan
Department of Oregon
Americanism Chairperson