

## JULY 2023

Hello members. President "Cookie" Debbie Little asked me to be your Patriotic Instructor this year for which I wholeheartedly accepted.

It would be nice if each Patriotic Instructor would cover this information at their respective meetings.

My name is Debby Fawver and I just completed eight years of going through the different positions at the Department level and am now considered Junior Past Department President. Over the years I have held a number of Chairmanships and enjoyed every one of them. And I am sure you are aware of my many pages of mentoring on each subject over the years. This year will be no different. So hang on to your shoes and lets have a fun year learning.

The Patriotic Instructor is an appointed position. When auxiliaries are small, the Chaplain will fulfill the reading of the message during the opening ceremony.

- Let us be ever mindful of **our duties** as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, **to see** that our *flag is never desecrated*, and **to teach** the people of this land *what this means* and **to see** that all or *instructed* in the **pledge to the flag**.

This year I will be mentoring you on the Traditions of the VFW Auxiliary and other subjects that should help all members understand their positions in auxiliaries at all levels.

**FIRST**: YI found the information on page 92, section 820 in the current Bylaws section of the Official 2023 Bylaws and Ritual Book.

- The patriotic Instructor shall see that the room is in keeping with the Ritual. *(This means you need to purchase a current book and open it to this page. You must also know how to set up the room properly. In this position you get the honor of helping mentor others so that when they attend a District or National Convention, they will be confident with their surroundings.)*
- Shall instruct the members in the proper use of and salute to the Flag.

*(This means you should have with you information of Flag Etiquette, proper retirement of flags and information on when and where to displays flags for all occasions.)*

- Shall maintain a record of all patriotic days and initiate programs for their proper observance and perform such other duties as the President may require.
- *Over the years at the Training Academies I handed out packets of Historical Patriotic Calendars. If your auxiliary has one of those, feel free to update it to include any new date in history. I received the original packet sometime after 1978. I have a hard time throwing stuff away!)*

**SECOND:** Remember to teach our new members that: **ONE RAP = ATTENTION. TWO RAPS= STAND AT ATTENTION IF POSSIBLE. THREE RAPS= BE SEATED**

**THIRD:** Also remember to teach the members when they are in a meeting they must stand and be recognized before they speak.

**FORTH:** When the secretary reads the roll of officers the **CONDUCTRESS** must stand. The member **STANDS,IF POSSIBLE**, when their name is called and remains standing until the roll is completed. The **CONDUCTRESS** says present, absent or excused when each name is called.

**FIFTH:**

- **EVERYONE REMAINS IN PLACE AND SILENT WHILE THE CHAPLAIN IS ON THE FLOOR.**
  
- **EVERYONE STANDS AT ATTENTION WHEN THE FLOOR TEAM IS MARCHING WITH THE FLAGS.**
  
- **DURING OPENING CEREMONIES, EVERYONE SALUTES THE FLAG AND CONTINUES TO SALUTE WHILE SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.**

**If anyone wants to know a little more about any area, please reach out. We will have a great year and our meetings should be more meaningful and shorter if everyone would learn what they should be doing during the meeting.**