



## 5 Star Program of Service / The 10 Ideals Program

These programs of the Sons of the American Legion go to the root of instilling true Americanism in those individuals who complete the programs. In the 5 Star Program, the five stars that are addressed demonstrate knowledge of; **Patriotism** – history of the flag, proper display, and proper respect to it; **Citizenship** – participation in community events and having a working knowledge of the qualities of a good citizen; **Discipline** – respect for rules and obedience to them; **Leadership** – principle requirement of leadership; **Legionism** – thoroughly understands the ritualistic work and the program of activities for the SAL.

Once the person has reviewed the criteria and researched the topics a brief exam is given. Upon successful completion, an application should be completed and submitted to the Detachment or Department for approval after which a medal demonstrating the achievement may be obtained through Emblem Sales.

The 10 Ideals Program covers **Patriotism**, **Health**, **Knowledge**, **Training**, **Honor**, **Faith**, **Helpfulness**, **Courtesy**, **Reverence**, and **Comradeship**. This is a written demonstration of understanding and participation in these ten points and, as with the 5 Star Program, with Detachment or Department approval, a medal may be obtained from Emblem Sales.

You don't have to go too far to find details of these programs and the exams, they are listed in the Squadron Handbook, but there is also good presentation of both programs on the Sons website, [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons).

Today, these programs have more importance than ever before because of the countless changes in our education system with regards to what can and what cannot be presented in the classrooms. Our over-indulgence in political correctness has seen the demise in the teaching of many of these values. We cannot hope that today's educators are teaching the same things we learned in school many years ago; today we must train our youth in the importance of these values. I encourage all reading this to participate in these programs because here's the bottom line – our educators don't relay many of these values, that leaves it up to you and I and if you don't know all aspects of the programs, how are you going to encourage these values? Let do more than talk about it, let's participate and educate!