

Americanism DEC Report

Thank you, Madam President Glenda, for giving me the opportunity to serve as Americanism Chairman.

I am proud to say our Department of Defense has been very dedicated to promoting the Americanism program.

Being that we are only halfway through this year. 17 districts have participated in Patriotic Events. 8,872 Flags, and many poppies were handed out during the Veteran's Day Parades. 77 Flags were replaced at businesses. 2000 Flags were placed on Veterans Graves. Several units assisted with the Veteran's Day Ceremonies to honor our Veterans.

Many Districts have contacted schools to present the Information for Department and National essay contests, while other Districts said their Units will be reaching out to schools by the end of January.

This Department Chairman. has mailed out Star-Spangled Kid Kits to each district to get them started in promoting the Star-Spangled Kid program.

The Department of Defense also have been visiting schools throughout the state of California handing out Flag Etiquettes brochures, along with educating students the proper display and retirement of the American Flag.

District 27 has presented 17 Blue Star and 2 Gold Star banners to families, also for September 11th they've asked the town to place red, White, and blue candles on their doorsteps in remembrance of 9/11.

District 25 Unit 229 and Victor Valley College students placed 3000 flags in the ground at the school in remembrance of 9/11.

District 19 presented the American Flag and Banners at City meetings and special events. Units also gave patriotic coloring books, comic books, and American flags to elementary schools.

District 28 Unit 589 and Unit 81 have been supporting the Salinas Veteran's Parades for 13 years, however this was the first time with a float. They had a poster sized picture of one of their Veteran members that had recently passed away posted on the side of the float. In attendance was Unit 589's Ebe the clown dressed in red, white, and blue handing out flags. Members made a point to thank and shake the hands of every Veteran wearing a hat or dressed in uniform. This event was also recognized and interviewed by Channel KSBW News and made headline for the 6 o'clock telecast.

These are only a few districts mentioned. Thank you to all the district that wrote supplementals. They were outstanding.

The Essay Contest is a big part of promoting the Americanism Program. I had several calls and emails asking about the deadline dates. They are as follows:

*March 1st (first Friday in March); Unit will pick up essays from School's.

*March 22nd (third Friday in March); Unit will forward the winning essays only to District Chairman for judging.

*April 19th (third Friday in April); District will forward winning essays only to Department Chairman for judging.

Thank you all for promoting the Americanism Program to our youths and the community.

Madam President may I read the Suggested titles for next year's essay contest?

The suggested essay titles for the year 2024-25 are:

Group I - 4th and 5th grades: Why do we say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag?

Group II - 6th and 7th grades: What does it mean to be an American ^{to me?} ~~to me?~~ Amended per Glenda Schultz

Group III - 8th and 9th grades: Why do we have the Constitution of the United States?

Group IV - 10th, 11th, & 12th grades: What does the Bill of Rights mean to me?

Group V - Special Needs: What does it mean to me to fly the American Flag?

✓ I move to accept these essay titles for the year 2024 -2025

That concludes my report.