

November 10, 2014

Re: **2014-2015 Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Essay Winners**

To: Larry Rother, Principal, Chandler High School; Margaret Thoren, Career Center, Chandler High School; Theresa Wilson, Office, Chandler High School; Fred Deprez, Principal, Hamilton High School; Holly Cain, Teacher, Hamilton High School; Phyllis Carr, Teacher, Hamilton High School; Nina Hardin, Office, Hamilton High School; Florence Swanson, Principal, Chandler Traditional Academy; Lynda Fredrickson, Teacher, Chandler Traditional Academy; Gina Swanson, Office, Chandler Traditional Academy; Susie Avey, Principal, Bogle Junior High School; Phillip Kennedy, Teacher, Bogle Junior High School; Tony Alcala, Teacher, Bogle Junior High School; Lisa Porter, Office, Bogle Junior High School

From: Thomas & Sandra Whittenberg, Sun Lakes, AZ, VFW Post 8053, Chairs, 2014-2015 Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

This year we are so appreciative of your schools' outstanding participation in this national competition!!! We received more than **600** essays from your students!!!! Listed below are the winners from each of your schools:

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

First Place - Priyanka Sethia -- Hamilton H.S. 12th Grade

Second Place - Julie Thamby, Chandler H.S., 11th Grade

Third Place - Justin Zhu -- Hamilton H.S., 10th Grade

Honorable Mention - Seth Chun -- Chandler H.S., 9th Grade

Honorable Mention - Nicole R. Darmawaskita -- Hamilton H.S. 11th Grade

PATRIOT'S PEN

First Place - Ryan Patrick Figueroa -- Bogle J.H.S., 7th Grade

Second Place - Tanner Hamblin -- Chandler Traditional Academy, 6th Grade

Third Place - Fiona Krieger -- Bogle J.H.S., 7th Grade

Honorable Mention - Nathan B. Gong -- Chandler Traditional Academy, 6th Grade

Honorable Mention - Taylor H. Garcia -- Bogle J.H.S., 8th Grade

Honorable Mention - Hannah Szoke -- Bogle J.H.S., 8th Grade

Honorable Mention - Caeleb M. Klinkhammer -- Bogle J.H.S., 7th Grade

These winners will now advance to the District level and compete with other VFW Post winners for an opportunity to win at the State level, and National level. The U.S. Patriot's Pen Grand Prize Winner will win \$5000.00 plus an all expense paid trip to Washington, DC, accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Grand Prize winner of the Voice of Democracy competition will win \$30,000.00, in addition to an all expense paid trip to Washington, DC.

As I mentioned when I called your school today, please do not tell your winning students. Traditionally each of your schools has held a recognition ceremony. Once we get our award certificates printed and your students' award checks written we will contact you regarding how and when you would like to recognize your students.

Again, thank you all parents, principals, teachers and students for your outstanding participation in this 2014-2015 scholarship program!!!!