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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
RULES FOR THE AMERICANISM POEM CONTEST, 2017-2018

TITLE: THANKS TO OUR VETERANS FREEDOM RINGS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Five Classes

- a. Class I - 3rd Grade
- b. Class II - 4th Grade
- c. Class III - 5th Grade
- d. Class IV - 6th Grade
- e. Class V - Students classified as Developmental Disability pupils, or those who are in special education classes in our school system. Developmental Disability Students include:
 - Those in special education classes for the developmentally disabled.
 - A student recommended for developmental disability classes but who was not admitted due to a waiting list or various other casual duties.
 - A child identified as developmentally disabled but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities, identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.

*Please note that home-schooled students are eligible; grade level must be verified.

2. **RULES:** Poems are

- a. Original work of student
- b. Three verses, four lines per verse.
- c. The lines may rhyme, but it is not a requirement.

3. **STUDENT IDENTIFICATION:** On the back side of the poem, write the student's name, complete address, grade, teacher's name and sponsoring Auxiliary Unit. The complete address is to include a street, box number or rural route number, city, state and zip code.

4. **DEADLINES:**

- a. **March 15:** To Unit Chairman or local Auxiliary from school / student.
- b. **April 1:** To District President from Auxiliary Unit. Each Unit may submit one poem from each class to District President.
- c. **April 15:** To Department Americanism Chairman from District President. Each District President may submit one poem in each class to the Department Americanism Chairman.

5. **JUDGING:** One or more of the American Legion Auxiliary members may serve as judges providing that no judge is a parent of a contestant. Selection of a winning entry will be the decision made by the judges of how much the poem pertains to the subject of Americanism and along patriotic lines.

6. **AWARDS:**

- a. Local Awards — at the discretion of the Unit.
- b. District Awards— at the discretion of the District.
- c. Department Awards — First and second place winners will be given