

**Department Americanism Committee**  
**Americanism Awards**  
August 2017

Our current Americanism Committee decide to go with the same award criteria that was presented for the 2016-2017 award year. There has been some slight changes for the 2017-2018 Americanism Awards. Our mission this year was to get the Americanism Coloring Contest and Award bulletins in your hands asap for the new year.

One major change will be how you submit the award categories for Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Emergency Medical Services and Unarmed Public Safety Personnel.

They can be submitted for "Valor" (one particular incident) or "Of the Year Award" for either an individual or a team. You must specify on the 2017-2018 cover sheet "Title of Award Being Sought" if it is a Valor Award or Of the Year Award. Your documentation must match the criteria being submitted. Our committee will judge the documentation with the award title being sought for. We will award only one submission for Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Emergency Medical Services and Unarmed Public Safety Personnel, regardless whether it is an individual, team, valor or of the year award.

Last year our committee created the First Responders Lifetime Achievement Award. We moved the continuous service of the year award for firefighters and law enforcement officers from their original award to the new First Responders Lifetime Achievement Award and submissions can include nominees from the emergency medical services and unarmed public safety fields. For the 2017-2018 award, nominees who retired from their Unit can be eligible for this lifetime achievement award.

We would like to make a suggestion with the Educator of the Year and the new School Team Educator of the Year Award. The school that won the team award last year was excited to say the least and because of that want to do more patriotic programs with their students and interface more with the Veterans. You may want to consider dropping of the Educator award paperwork when you deliver the coloring contest to your school.

National's goals on Americanism awards is to select a well-rounded nominee who has exceeded, above and beyond the duty requirements expected of their position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. National judging is based on community service, professional career, heroism and documentation such as letters of recognition, newsletter clippings, etc. Documentation must show proof that the submission occurred during the specified period.

Our committee has been asked for guidance on how to submit the proper documentation for any of our awards. We have been given permission from one of the 2017-2018 award winners to use their submission as a helpful guide in putting together documentation. Your County Americanism representatives will have a copy for your review. Please contact them.

We feel that giving out the Americanism Award plaques to the respective winning departments, we are increasing the visibility of the American Legion and could help our membership growth. We also feel that by giving out Certificates of Honorable Mention for those who nominees who did not win an award also increases our visibility within the community and hopefully get new members. **Lets highlight our Communities and give our Americanism Committee "Your Best" so we can honorably award them in return. Thank you.**

Sherrylee Govoni, Chairman  
Department Americanism Committee