



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

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*John P. Lamphere*  
2009-10 Commander

*Rolly D. Lee, Sr.*  
Adjutant

**2010 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST**

August 12, 2009

From: DAV State Americanism Chairman Carl Poest  
17779 East Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026

Committee Members: Dennis Rogala (114) Terry Marek (61) and John Manninen (115)

To: Chapter Americanism Chairman c/o Adjt.:

The Department is again sponsoring an "Americanism Essay Contest" this upcoming year and DAV State Commander John Lamphere expects all Chapters to participate!

Please have your Chapter Americanism Chairman contact your local elementary schools and make arrangements for your chapter to "Sponsor a Classroom Americanism Essay Contest." The essay subject the students will be writing about is "**What America's veterans mean to me. . .**"

The contest is limited to **5<sup>th</sup> grade elementary students ONLY.**

Contact each school principal for program clearance (See "SAMPLE LETTER" on the reverse side of this letter — to be sent out for you by the Department.)

The general guidelines for the project utilize the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students' research, writing and creative skills. It's an opportunity for the students to gain recognition for their skills. As well as presenting them with the opportunity to obtain a bond for themselves, and a grant for the school. Allow the classroom teacher to establish specific ground rules for conducting the program, including the selection of judges.

The chapter should determine what prizes will be awarded to the local 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners. Arrange an awards ceremony with the classroom teacher and principal. Have chapter members attend the ceremony. If possible, take pictures at the ceremony for publicity purposes, or invite a local newspaper to attend the ceremony to cover the event.

See that your local program is completed by **Friday, April 2, 2010** to allow you enough time to submit the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place essays to the Department office for consideration in the Statewide sponsored "Americanism Essay Contest" where a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place winning entry will be selected.

Your first and second place winning essays should be submitted to the Department office **NO LATER THAN Friday, April 9, 2010**. In addition, please provide the following information on the students who place first and second place locally: Name and address of school; the student's name, address and telephone number. We will be purchasing U.S. Savings bonds for the winners.

Review the contents of the enclosed "Sample Letter" and complete the "Return Notice" form and mail it into the Department office so that a letter can be sent out for you.

**This letter will be mailed out by Department headquarters on Chapter's behalf!**

**Just complete the Return Notice form and mail it in!**

## SAMPLE LETTER

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NAME  
NAME OF SCHOOL  
ADDRESS

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan has an Americanism essay writing program that should fit right in to your fifth graders curricula. Its objective is to ignite the student's awareness of our country, its symbols, its past and its future. It gives students a chance to exercise their fledgling, researching and creative writing skills. It also provides them the opportunity to win a \$100 or \$500 U.S. Savings Bond *and a cash grant of up to \$500 for their school.*

This year's subject is "**What America's veterans mean to me . . .**" We want to keep the program as flexible as possible, allowing the classroom teachers to set the ground rules for the essay project and even selecting judges.

We would like to have the contest completed by Friday, April 2, 2010 to allow our chapter to submit the first and second place essays to our State Americanism Committee for judging, where a first, second, third and fourth place Statewide winner will be selected. These statewide winners will be awarded U.S. Savings bonds and their sponsoring schools will be presented cash awards.

If your fifth graders wish to participate, please have their teacher contact me. We'll do everything we can to make this project a success.

Sincerely,

NAME, CHAPTER AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN  
ADDRESS  
TELEPHONE NUMBER

# RETURN NOTICE

Return to:

Carl Poest, Chairman  
DAV State Americanism Committee  
17779 East 14 Mile Road  
Fraser, MI 48026

Yes! Chapter Number \_\_\_\_\_ plans to adopt the 2010 Americanism Essay Contest. Please send a letter requesting school participation to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(School Principal) (School's Name)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Sign letter:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chapter Americanism Chairman)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Work) (Home)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

# Disabled American Veterans 2010 Americanism Essay Contest

## DAV STATE ESSAY CONTEST WINNER CAN EARN \$100-\$500 CASH FOR SCHOOL

### AWARDS FOR SPONSORING SCHOOLS

					
	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>\$500</b>			
	<b>2nd Place Essayist</b>	<b>\$100</b>			
	<b>3rd Place Essayist</b>	<b>\$100</b>			
	<b>4th Place</b>	<b>\$100</b>			
					

The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan sponsors an annual Americanism "essay" contest in cooperation with the local DAV chapters.

We invite your 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in this year's contest.

Our objective is to ignite student awareness of our country, its symbols, its past and its future. This year's essay subject is **"What America's veterans mean to me . . ."**

We wish to keep the program as workable as possible.

The "ground

rules" are left up to the teachers conducting the program, including the selection of judges. Our chapter will provide first and second place awards.

Committee, where a first, second, third and fourth place Statewide winner will be selected.

As an additional incentive to get the school districts and/or schools more interested in promoting the program, the DAV will award the school of the Statewide winning essayist with \$500 and will present each of the

schools with the second, third and fourth place winning essayist with \$100.



**5TH GRADE STUDENT WRITES ESSAY  
TO BECOME STATEWIDE WINNER**

We would like to have the contest completed by April 2, 2010 to allow our local chapter enough time to submit the first and second place essays to our State Americanism

### 5TH GRADE STUDENT PRIZES

<b>1st Place Essay</b>	<b>\$500 Bond</b>
<b>2nd Place Essay</b>	<b>\$100 Bond</b>
<b>3rd Place Essay</b>	<b>\$100 Bond</b>
<b>4th Place Essay</b>	<b>\$100 Bond</b>