

ARTICLE
California Compatriot

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Spirit of America Award Endorsed by the Board of Managers

The Spirit of America Award was conceived within the Patton Chapter to be an effort of the Sons of the American Revolution to interact with our nation's youth at a most critical and influential period in their lives. Originated by Patton Chapter President Robert D. Nedry, the concept involves working with officials of a junior high school district to select and award two young people (ideally, one boy one girl) from the district's graduating class the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and it's accompanying engraved certificate at the gradation ceremonies of each selected student's school.

The formal presentation of the awards is to be made by an active compatriot of the SAR Chapter providing the awards. If there is no junior high school in the chapter's area, the sole criterion is to provide an opportunity to the local school system that graduates its students into the local school district. A school district consisting of grades K through 8 would be such a district, and all students in eighth grade in that district's schools would be eligible for selection for the award.

The district-wide competition is to select the boy and girl who best represent the highest American ideals and character. The award is designed to emphasize the development if the qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service for all of our young people. The program exists to promote and support our young people in achieving these qualities, and to help equip them for outstanding and productive citizenship.

The selection process should center upon the aforementioned qualities of high character, and should include assessment of:

- A. Dependability, as evidenced the young person's record of punctuality, truthfulness, honesty, loyalty, trustworthiness, and self control at school, at home, and in the community.
- B. Cooperation, with regard to respect for authority, property, and the rights of others, coupled with courtesy.
- C. Leadership, as demonstrated by the individual's ability to improve the school for himself, or herself, and others;
- D. Patriotism, as shown by demonstrated loyalty to the United States of America coupled with a knowledge of the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, as well as the import and meaning of the Unites States Ensign, along with the details of the respect and care to always be demonstrated to nation's flag.

Examples of related documents, including a press release letter to the district officials, presentation speech, and student nomination form are available upon request from the Patton Chapter.
