



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

Chairman – Maggie Montijo

azamericanism@gmail.com

PO Box 155

Pomerene, AZ 85627

520-904-1814

This Americanism Chairman for the Department of Arizona is excited that we doubled our reporting from our Units! Units in Arizona participated in the Memorial Services and Veteran's Day Events and parades, that took place around the state. Most units helped with flag placement on the graves of Veteran's and those that have Juniors also had them participate. Poppies were distributed on Memorial weekend and units continued to have poppy making parties to help to help distribute them to other around the state of Arizona.

This year a lot more units in Arizona participated in Wreaths Across America giving their cemetery a beautiful remembrance. A lot of Units worked together with their Posts and Sal, Units commanding the lead or helping the Legion with side dishes, set ups and clean ups. This chairman is proud to say that the reports that were sent ALL units participated in providing meals or helping with dinners and breakfasts at their Posts.

Units this year have started to honor our Blue Star and Gold Star families. They gave those families their appropriate flags so that they would know that they are being thought of and that Americanism runs deep in the families of their communities.

Units have been working hard to continue with card signing parties to send cards to VA Homes and to those who are serving abroad. They signed over 200 cards that were to be delivered to the VA Hospital and the VA Nursing homes in Arizona. Units didn't just send cards for Christmas, they sent them for all holidays and even the months with no holidays, just a simple, "thinking of you cards", sent on months with no holidays.

We officially have 5 state homes in Arizona, Yuma, Flagstaff, Prescott, Phoenix and Tucson. Units continue to provide these nursing homes with snack donations, furniture and the monthly birthday parties filled with cake and ice cream.

Units in Arizona unfortunately didn't have many participate in the Americanism Essay Contest but the ones that did were well received and we were able to send up 3 from Arizona to national with one from each class IV, V and II. There were a total of 19 essays submitted to this chairman. Units have worked hard to get into schools but still find it hard to have faculty be receptive, but they continue to make contact. I know these efforts will pay off!

We had units help with donations to the ALLECA and donations to the JROTC in their communities. We have units sending delegates to Girl's State, with them raising money to help support the program not only by helping assist in fees but also helping with donations for the delegates to have drinks and snacks for over 250 girls. Units also raised money to help offset costs with agenda books, and t-shirts. The Star-Spangled Kids were used in the schools that units visit. We had units hand out stickers, real flags, and coloring flags for children in their community, students were given flag etiquette presentations throughout

Arizona. We have a unit that has set up an Americanism poster board located in the main area of the elementary school's hallway and has pushed to educate students on the different branches of the service, they even had fun facts on the military which children enjoyed. Units participated in Seeds for Autism and helped them understand their American civic duty. Another unit participated with schools in their area to help those students in need of supplies, they created a popup Prom boutique for those who needed formal wear to attend this event.

This year an American Legion Family decided to team up with a local nursing home to provide meals and companionship to those veterans that don't have family. This has been a huge success not just with the veterans but other lonely patients in the care home. What a wonderful contribution to helping the lonely.

This Americanism chairman was excited to see that so many units, even small ones. They all did mighty acts that made a huge impact in their communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maggie Montijo Department of Arizona, Americanism Chairman