Honoring America's Veterans, Veterans Day Parade in Phoenix

Awards Judging Guidelines

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Originality	-Creativity, quality, and uniqueness of decoration
Quality	-Workmanship on entry
Theme	-Recognition of display of the parade theme
Overall	-General appearance, eye appeal, and music

Judges will be stationed at various locations along the parade route. Entries will also be reviewed in staging and de-staging.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

Awards will be presented to the 1st place winners in each category. Ribbons will be awarded to 2nd and 3rd place entries. Awardees will be notified within ten days after the parade of their selection as the winner and where the reception will be held. Awardees will be presented with their award or ribbon at the ceremony. Parade entries will only be invited to the reception to keep the award a surprise without knowing which place they won. Award categories are as follows:

- **Bands & Musical Groups –** Military, school, and community bands, drumlines, and performers.
- **Color Guards –** Military, veterans, ROTC, JROTC, and first responder honor guards.
- **Commercial Entries –** Businesses showing patriotic support with vehicles, floats, Veterans Resource/Affinity Groups or displays.
- **Equestrian & Canine Units –** Horses, riders, and service or military working dogs.
- **Floats –** Decorated trailers or vehicles honoring veterans and patriotic themes.
- **Historic Entries –** Living history groups, period reenactors, and restored military equipment.
- **Marching Units –** Military, veterans, first responders, school, ROTC, and community groups.
- **Nonprofit & Community Groups –** Organizations honoring veterans through participation.
- **Specialty & Performance Entries –** Unique displays, drill teams, and high-impact performances.
- **Vehicles –** Military vehicles, motorcycles, classic cars, and special-interest vehicles.
- **Youth Entries –** Schools, youth organizations, and JROTC programs.

Honoring America's Veterans, Veterans Day Parade in Phoenix Judging Criteria

All entries will be judged throughout the parade route and as they pass the reviewing stand. **Units cannot stop in front of the reviewing stand to perform routines.** Commemorative awards are presented for first place. Ribbons and certificates are presented for second and third place.

Each Entry will be judged on:

i) Best representation of the theme
ii) Creativity
iii) Overall presentation

Float Guidelines

1) All tow vehicles must be decorated according to their entry theme OR in patriotic themes, consisting of red, white, and blue.
2) Floats cannot exceed 8 feet in height or 8 feet in width. The float length must allow it to navigate and turn effectively on city streets (a maximum of two trailer lengths together).
3) All float materials must be flame retardant. There should be one fire extinguisher on the float.
4) Floats must have recorded/live patriotic music playing during the entire parade route.
5) The driver must have an unobstructed view of the road.
6) Driver's license and insurance are required for all vehicles.

Animal Groups

1) Animal and Equestrian Groups are required to provide their own appropriate methods of waste removal (i.e., "pooper scooper").

Performance Groups

1) Each entry must have a unit banner with large print so that the banner can be read by the judges and spectators.
2) Each entry must send one representative to the staging area to check in by 10 a.m. You will then need to show your group to your staging location.
3) The maximum chaperone ratio for youth groups is 1:15 (adult/children). Chaperones are a part of the group and must dress in unit uniform or costume.
4) No strollers or wagons with parents pulling children will be allowed. Children must be at least 13 years old and be able to walk 1.8 miles at a pace of two miles per hour; otherwise, they will not be allowed to participate.
5) All units will be limited to 150 participants in the parade (excluding bands).

SPECIAL AWARDS
To be given when warranted.

THE SALUTE TO PATRIOTS AWARD honors those who spent countless hours helping establish the Parade. These patriots include:

- Councilman Craig Tribken, helped advocate with the City Council in 1997 to create the parade.
- Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center Director John R. Fears, who supported the event and helped foster its growth during his tenure as director (1993 – 2006).
- Irene Stillwell, City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Service, advocated and supported the need for such a patriotic event during her career with the City.
- Ben Jefferson, who supported the parade amongst our Congressional members and served as the first chairman of the committee.
- Mayor Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix, Katherine Brooks, and Rick Romley, Presidents of HAV, who saved the Parade in 2011 and 2013.
- Paula L. Pedene for her role as parade founder, advocate, and coordinator of the event from its inception in 1997 to its present day.

SOARING OVER STAGING AWARD: When organizers stage a parade, the complexities involved are numerous. It is often said that the best way to describe the effort is "organized chaos." A well-staged parade leads to a well-executed parade. To create a harmonious staging environment, entries must be cooperative, considerate, kind, compassionate, pay attention to detail, assist fellow entries, and maintain high standards for others to emulate. This award recognizes David and Diane Kump, who led the staging efforts from 1999 to 2009.

PARADE COMMITTEE AWARDS: The Parade Committee created the following awards in 2007 to help instill camaraderie and support among the people involved in the parade. These awards are judged throughout the parade and determined at the final team meeting.

1. **Best Parade Route Manager:** Awarded to the person who covers their section of the parade route the best.
2. **Best Script Award:** Awarded to the parade entry with the best-written script**.**
3. **Best Parade Entry Supporter:** Awarded to the parade entry that demonstrates congeniality, kindness, and support to all entries.
4. **Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Chairman's Award:** Awarded for excellent support from an entry.
5. **Other** specialty awards as decided by the parade team.

Questions? Call Paula Pedene (HAV Board Member and Parade Coordinator) at 480-772-2934 or via email at paula.pedene@honoringamericasveterans.org.

We thank you for your interest in supporting our Veterans on their special day!