



## PHOENIX VETERANS DAY PARADE AWARDS JUDGING GUIDELINES

### JUDGING CRITERIA:

<b>Originality</b>	-Creativity, quality, and uniqueness of decoration
<b>Quality</b>	-Workmanship on entry
<b>Theme</b>	-Recognition of display of the parade theme
<b>Overall</b>	-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 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in each category. Ribbons will be awarded to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

- **Balloon – For Profit**
- **Balloon – Nonprofit**
- **Balloon – Other**
- **Balloon and Veterans Group – For Profit**
- **Balloon and Veterans Group - Nonprofit**
- **Band– High School**
- **Band – Other**
- **Canine Entry**
- **Color Guard Small (15 or Less)**
- **Color Guard Large (More than 15)**
- **Equestrian Entry**
- **Float – State Government (includes marchers)**
- **Float – County Government (includes marchers)**
- **Float – For Profit (includes marchers)**
- **Float - Non-Profit (includes marchers)**
- **Marching Unit, Small (15 or Less)**
- **Marching Unit, Large (More than 15)**
- **Military Unit - JROTC**
- **Novelty Unit Small (25 or Less)**
- **Novelty Unit Large (More than 25)**
- **Vehicle – Civilian**
- **Vehicle – Historical**
- **Vehicle – Military**
- **Veterans Employees/Engagement Group – For Profit**
- **Veterans Employees/Engagement – Nonprofit**

- VSO/Veterans Group Color Guard, Small (15 or Less)
- VSO/Veterans Group Color Guard, Large (More than 15)
- VSO/Veterans Group Historical Entry
- VSO/Veterans Group Marching Unit Small (15 or Less)
- VSO/Veterans Group Marching Unit Large (15 or More)
- VSO/Veterans Group Float
- VSO/Veterans Group in Vehicles
- Youth – Float
- Youth - Novelty
- Youth – Marching

## **PHOENIX VETERANS DAY PARADE 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.com](mailto:Paula@Pedene.com).

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