Phoenix Veterans Day Parade
AWARDS JUDGING GUIDELINES

These guidelines explain how parade entries will be judged, what awards may be presented, and the key participation requirements for floats, animal groups, and performance groups.

All entries will be judged throughout the parade route and as they pass the reviewing stand. Judges will be stationed at various locations along the route, and entries will also be reviewed in staging and de-staging.

JUDGING CRITERIA

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

AWARDS

Awards will be presented to first-place winners in each category, and ribbons will be awarded to second-place winners. Awardees will be notified within ten days after the parade and informed where the reception will be held. Awardees will receive their award or ribbon at the ceremony.

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.

Units cannot stop in front of the reviewing stand to perform routines. Commemorative awards are presented for first place, and ribbons and certificates are presented for second place.

EACH ENTRY WILL BE JUDGED ON

- Best representation of the theme
- Creativity
- Overall presentation

The following guidelines apply to specific types of parade entries and help ensure a safe, well-organized, and respectful parade experience for participants, spectators, and judges.

FLOAT GUIDELINES

- All tow vehicles must be decorated according to their entry theme OR in patriotic themes, consisting of red, white, and blue.

- 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).
- All float materials must be flame retardant, and each float must carry one fire extinguisher.
- Floats must have recorded/live patriotic music playing during the entire parade route.
- The driver must have an unobstructed view of the road.
- Driver's license and insurance are required for all vehicles.

ANIMAL GROUPS

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

PERFORMANCE GROUPS

- Each entry must have a unit banner with large print so that the banner can be read by the judges and spectators.
- Each entry must send one representative to the staging area to check in by 10 a.m. The representative will then be directed to the group's staging location.
- The maximum chaperone ratio for youth groups is 1:15 (adult to children). Chaperones are part of the group and must dress in the unit uniform or patriotic attire.
- Children must be at least 13 years old and able to walk 1.8 miles at a pace of two miles per hour to participate.
- All units will be limited to 150 participants in the parade (excluding bands).

SPECIAL AWARDS

Special awards may be presented when warranted.

The Salute to Patriots Award

This award honors those who spent countless hours helping establish the Parade. These patriots include:

- Councilman Craig Tribken, who 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, who advocated and supported the need for such a patriotic event during her career with the City.
- 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

The Soaring Over Staging Award recognizes entries that help create a cooperative, considerate, and well-organized staging environment. A well-staged parade leads to a well-executed parade, and this award honors the high standards set by David and Diane Kump, who led the staging efforts from 1999 to 2009.

Parade Committee Awards

The Parade Committee created the following awards 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.

- **Best Parade Route Manager –** Awarded to the person who covers their section of the parade route the best.
- **Best Script Award –** Awarded to the parade entry with the best-written script.

- **Best Parade Entry Supporter –** Awarded to the parade entry that demonstrates congeniality, kindness, and support to all entries.
- **Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Chairman's Award –** Awarded for excellent support from an entry.
- **Other Specialty Awards –** May be presented as decided by the parade team.

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

Thank you for supporting America's Veterans on their special day.