FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Legion invites high school students to compete in speech contest

Winners will earn scholarship money, chance to compete in national finals

High school students certified by each District will compete at the Department (State-level) Competition on February 29, 2020 at Northwestern University in Natchitoches, LA. The location of the contest is the Treen Auditorium in the Louisiana School for Science, Math, and the Arts, 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA. The contest will begin at 1:00 PM but the contestants are asked to arrive by 12:00. The winner of the Department contest will represent Louisiana at the National Competition in April 17-19, 2020 in Indianapolis, IN.

The subject in the prepared oration portion of the contest must be about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the United States government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must be 8-10 minutes in length. There is second impromptu speech that focuses on the Amendments to the Constitution and should be between 3-5 minutes. The complete rules and guidelines can be found at www.legion.org/oratorical.

There will be a plaque and monetary award for District and Department winners. In addition to the awards by winners of the various elimination rounds of competition, college scholarships of $18,000, $16,000, and $14,000 will be awarded to the first through third places in the national finals. Each state winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a $1,500 scholarship. Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional $1,500 scholarship. The top three youth orators who have won all previous elimination rounds of the contest will vie for top honors in the national contest in April in Indianapolis. The American Legion will pay the expenses of state winners at the national contest.

High school students who are interested in entering the competition will find complete rules and contest information at www.legion.org/oratorical. All contestants must be a student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school). The curriculum of the school must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. A student may participate on multiple occasions throughout their high school career.

Please contact your District Oratorical Chairman or Department Oratorical Chairman, Lee Shaffer at 985-804-2265 or lshaffers@aol.com.

Date: January 29, 2020