

## **THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD**

The Spirit of America Award was established as an annual award in 1985 during Bicentennial of the United States of America to give deserving eighth grade students tangible recognition at graduation ceremonies. The students to be recognized were selected by the faculty of their school using the criteria of: **DEPENDABILITY** (Punctuality, truthfulness, honesty, loyalty, trustworthiness and self-control at school, home and in the community); **COOPERATION**: (Respect for authority, property and the rights of others, and courtesy); **LEADERSHIP**: (Ability to improve the school experience for self and others); and **PATRIOTISM**: (Loyalty to the United States of America, knowledge of the purposes as expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and the meaning of and respect to the Flag of the United States of America).

Each participating school will select one boy and one girl of the graduating class to receive the award, and from the schools in the school district one boy and one girl will be selected from the school selectees to receive the award for that school district. The district-wide winners will receive an SAR medal and certificate, and the winners at the school level will receive an SAR pin and certificate. Compatriots of the SAR will make the presentations at the school graduation ceremonies.

In Ventura and Western Los Angeles Counties public or private school districts or middle schools (or equivalent) wanting to participate in this program should contact the President or an other officer of the General Patton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution for further information. School Districts that have participated in the past have included Ventura Unified, Pleasant Valley, Oxnard, and Fillmore Unified. Schools have included Anacapa Middle School, Balboa Middle School, De Anza Middle School, Cabrillo Middle School, Fillmore Junior High School, Monte Vista Middle School, Las Colinas Middle School, Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School, Los Primeros School of Science and Art, Fremont Intermediate School and Haydock Intermediate School.

The purpose of The Spirit of America Program is to give early recognition and encouragement from the community to eighth grade students who have typified the high character of citizenship and patriotism required in the future citizens and leaders of America.