

SUGGESTED SCHOOL AWARDS PRESENTATION SPEECH

Principal _____, members of the Graduation Class of _____ High School, ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed a pleasure for me as the representative of _____ Post of The American Legion, Department of Louisiana, to present these two school awards which represent the highest honor given to any civilian by The American Legion. I thank the school officials of _____ High School, who have cooperated in this school award program and also thank the Louisiana Department of Education of Louisiana for their full endorsement of this activity.

I would like to briefly cite the six principles upon which these awards are made:

1. **COURAGE** - Bravery in the face of opposition and danger; determination and force to do right without public applause and regardless of personal advantage. A quality of intellect.
2. **HONOR** - Highly developed moral character; moral excellence; strength and stability of character; high standards of conduct; devotion to duty; adherence to truth; a keen sense of what is right; practice of clean speech and thoughts.
3. **LEADERSHIP** - Ability to lead and to accomplish through group action; ability to work in harmony and in unison with other leaders in accomplishing group results; desire and ability to fill voids in the lives of others caused by timidity, illness and other handicaps.
4. **PATRIOTISM** - An ideal of loyal Americanism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom and the willingness to defend our Flag against all enemies, foreign or domestic. Perhaps best defined in the American's Creed.
5. **SCHOLARSHIP** - Attainments in school studies; quality of school work reflecting the fine traits of industry, perseverance, efficiency and intelligence.
6. **SERVICE** - Kindliness; unselfishness; fellowship; protection of the weak; promotion of the interests and the welfare of associates; and constructive aid for the up building of schools and community.

This is the highest honor awarded American youth by The American Legion. It is a medal that proclaims to the world you are the kind of American that we, the Comrades of men who gave their lives in battle, believe worthy of such honor. We believe you have a reverence for God and undying love for your native land. It is our desire that wherever you go and whatever you do, you will always be guided by the highest and holiest ideals.