Arkansas Oratorical Competition to be Held this Saturday

Little Rock, AR - The American Legion Department of Arkansas will host the 2020 Arkansas Oratorical Competition this Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th floor of the Bank of America building at 200 West Capitol Avenue in downtown Little Rock and media representatives are encouraged to attend. *Note - Media representatives are encouraged to arrive at any time during the event to gather photos/video; however, program instructions to participants and judges will be underway at 9:30 a.m. The best opportunity for interviews with the winners and organizers will be at 2:00 p.m.

The 2.4-million member American Legion has sponsored the National High School Oratorical Contest for over 80 years. The purpose of the National High School Contest is to develop a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

For 2020, the Department Contest Finalist will receive $2,000.00 for First Place, $1,500.00 for Second Place, and $1,000.00 for the Third Place.

The Department First Place Winner will represent Arkansas at the National level with an all-expense-paid trip with chaperone to Indianapolis, Indiana where he/she will be guaranteed an additional $1,500.00 scholarship and have an opportunity to receive up to an additional $20,000.00. The 2008 winner, Ginger McFarland from Siloam Springs placed second nationally and received a total of $22,500 in scholarship money for her efforts.

For more information, please visit the American Legion National Headquarters Web site at www.legion.org/oratorical, or contact Roger Lacy, Oratorical Contest Chairman, at (501) 231-4030, or visit the Programs tab on the American Legion Department of Arkansas Web site at: http://www.arlegion.org/programs/oratorical.html.

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