



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Janene Van Leeuwen
Office: 623-474-6666 Fax: 623-474-6669
jvanleeuwen@liberty.k12.az.us
www.liberty.k12.az.us

**VFW POSTS 285 AND 6310 RECOGNIZE LIBERTY DISTRICT TEACHERS
Two Teachers Receive Teacher of the Year Award**

Liberty District – Buckeye & Goodyear, AZ

Two Liberty District educators received the VFW’s National Citizenship Education Teachers’ Award. They were recognized for teaching citizenship education topics to their students and for their contributions to their schools and community. Dena Schafer, 2nd grade teacher and Character Counts Coordinator at Westar Elementary, was recognized by VFW Post 285 and Patty Messer, Gifted and Talented teacher for the Liberty District, was named VFW Post 6310’s Teacher of the Year. “Both teachers are deserving of this honor”, said Janene Van Leeuwen Public Information Officer for the District. “They have been most generous in sharing their time and talent as well as promoting citizenship education among our students and community!” Both teachers were honored at a celebration and banquet hosted at VFW District 3 post.

In addition to being named VFW post 6310 Teacher of the Year, Patty Messer will go on to represent District 3 at State Level for the VFW Arizona Teacher of the Year. She will be competing against 9 other Districts for Elementary Education Teachers’ Award to advance to National level. “All of our teachers work hard all year long ensuring student success”, said Superintendent Dr. Andy Rogers. “We appreciate the VFW for offering the opportunity to recognize them for their efforts. We are especially excited about having Patty Messer represent the Liberty District and District 3 as the Elementary Teacher of the Year!”

The VFW’s National Citizenship Education Teachers’ Award identifies and recognizes America’s best educators in elementary, junior high and high school who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America’s history and traditions. Teachers can be nominated to local posts by fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals. To learn more, visit www.vfw.org.



Patty Messer (Center) receives award and recognition at District 3 banquet where Dena Schafer was also recognized.



Dena Schafer (left) and Patty Messer (right) recognized by VFW officers at District Board Meeting, Monday December 14.

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About Liberty District: Liberty Elementary School District #25 was founded in 1908, making it the 25th recognized school district in Maricopa County. Servicing students in both Buckeye and Goodyear, it has grown to include four additional schools: Estrella Mountain Elementary (1989), Rainbow Valley Elementary (2001), Westar Elementary (2004), and Freedom Elementary (2005). It currently has approximately 3,900 students enrolled and spans over 265 sq. miles of the West Valley.

THE LIBERTY SCHOOL DISTRICT