

## “Legion Presents Awards and Recognitions”

**(Grandview WA,)** Grandview’s Fred E. Hayes Post 57 of The American Legion has presented or announced the recipients of various school related awards and recognitions for the 2023-24 school year.

The major award is The American Legion School Award, a national award presented to graduating students at the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade level. Nominations are sought from each school and the local Post selects a boy and a girl to receive the award. The award is given to those who best represent the qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. Since the student must best meet all six criteria, they may not necessarily be associated with what is considered the top students. “Our founders were very wise in setting up the award this way,” said Jim Davidson of the local Post. “This award is widely recolonized around the nation by colleges, businesses and the military so receiving it can be a life-altering experience for some youth.”

The Grandview High School recipients were Jackeline Valdez and Kyle Bruinekool. An Honorable Mention certificate was presented to Cooper Kleinow.

Grandview Middle School recipients were Jennalynn Garza and Warren Schultz.

Thompson Elementary recipients were Danielle Mason and Juan Daniel Ruiz.

Smith Elementary recipients were Jocelyn Aguilar Lopez and Giovanni Delgadillo. Honorable Mention certificates were presented to Dominic Gonzalez, Neveah Ozuna and Rebecca Soto Trinidad.

Regrettably, McClure Elementary submitted no nominations.

At Grandview High School, pendant medals were presented to the top three athlete scholars. Sometimes this award is determined by which students lettered in more than one sport or who also participated in other extracurricular activities. The recipients this year were Gold, Marrison Castilleja, Silver, Natalia Yanetsko and Bronze, Gabriella Ledesma.

The Robert “Doug” Hilmoie Vocational Scholar Awards are presented annually to the top three vocational students. The award is named after a deceased Legionnaire who had fought vigorously for the ward when the Post adopted the scholar programs. The recipients of the pendant medals were Gold, Marissa Castilleja, Silver, Kimberly Palacios and Bronze, Simon Cervantes.

An American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Good Citizenship Medal was presented to Jackeline Valdez who represented Grandview as a delegate to Girls State in 2023.

As a first this year, the Post recognized Grandview students entering the military. Blue Star Certificates of Honor for Military Service were presented to Janis Delgado (Army); Victor Mendoza (Army); Leonardo Arzate Lopez (Army) and Thuan Campos (Marine Corps).

Grandview's Fred E. Hayes Post 57 of The American Legion has served Lower Valley communities since 1919 and the wholesome development of youth is one of the key aspects driving the Post's existence. More information is available at [www.walegion57.org](http://www.walegion57.org).