

(Grandview, WA, June 7th) Grandview's American Legion Post 57 has named The American Legion School Award winners at each of Grandview's five schools. The awards were presented individually at each school.

The American Legion School Award is a prestigious national award authorized to be presented by local American Legion Posts. It is normally presented to one boy and one girl from each graduating class in 5th, 8th and 12th grades.

"It is different from all other awards given to students," said Post Commander Robert Gates. "We are looking for the complete citizen through six specific criteria and not everyone can meet that requirement."

The Award seeks candidates who display the qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. Nominations are sought from school staff and the community and are judged by a committee of Legionnaires from the local Post. "Due to the hybrid learning this year, we had some difficulty obtaining nominations and we had to make some difficult decisions," Gates said.

"What makes this award even more special is that Grandview is one of very few Posts in the entire state that makes the effort to recognize these students, especially outside of the graduating senior class," Gates said. "This Award is of such significance it can be listed on various scholarship applications as an honor and is recognized by reviewing officials."

The Award was presented at Grandview High School to Nicholas Gutierrez and Keely Bentley. Both of their nominations came from community members.

Grandview Middle School recipients were Amaya Benitez and Paola Lara-Campos. The Post did not receive nominations for a male. The nominations for the two girls were equally qualified, so the Post elected to break precedent and present to both nominated girls rather than just one.

The McClure School recipient was Jason Richey. Regrettably, there were no female nominations submitted by the required deadline.

Smith School submitted several nominations. Their recipients were Nehemiah Rivera and Serenity Estrada. Honorable Mention Awards were presented to Brissa Pineda, Liliana Garza, Alvaro Alvarez-Mendoza and Carter Lyall.

Thompson School recipients were Avary Hultberg and Devin Gallegos