



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
The American Legion, Department of Nebraska  
[afwashburn@windstream.net](mailto:afwashburn@windstream.net)  
Contact: Amanda Washburn - 402-464-6338

## Nebraska American Legion Names Their 2019 Teachers-of-the-Year

(Lincoln) June 24, 2019 – Each year the Nebraska American Legion names three outstanding teachers who promote americanism, patriotism, and support the veterans and active duty military in their communities as Teacher-of-the-Year at the elementary, middle, and high school level at their annual Department Convention. The following teachers were selected as the recipients of the 2019 Teacher-of-the-Year awards:

### **Elementary School Teacher-of-the-Year – Kelli Dorsey**

Kelli Dorsey is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Johnson County Central Public Schools. Dorsey has her students recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing a patriotic song each morning to inspire patriotism, love of country, and respect for the flag. Her students submit essays to the local Auxiliary and VFW on the topics of patriotism, the flag, and veteran homelessness. Her brother has served in the Army for 30 years and she feels that it is her responsibility to ensure that all students understand the sacrifices made by American military members, veterans, and their families.

### **Middle School Teacher-of-the-Year – no applicants**

### **High School Teacher-of-the-Year – Dallas Bartlett**

Dallas Bartlett is the Agriculture Education teacher at Pender High School. Bartlett served in the Nebraska Air National Guard 155<sup>th</sup> refueling wing where he retired as a Chief Master Sergeant. He has made an impact on the Pender FFA program by increasing the number of students at the school who participate in the program to 75% of total enrollment. Bartlett teaches students the value of hard work and challenges them to always do things to the best of their ability. He is teaching the city's youth about the freedoms they have because of veterans sacrifices and is instrumental in organizing the Veteran's Day program at the school each year and is inspiring all of the staff and students to respect the flag and veterans and active duty military.

Department Commander Lyle Bartels presented a plaque of recognition to each of these recipients at the Nebraska American Legion Department Convention held in Kearney June 21-23. He thanked them for their dedication to our country's youth and to our veterans. Family, friends, and American Legion Family members were in attendance to congratulate the recipients.

Since its inception in 1919, The American Legion has been a key advocate for veterans' benefits, patriotic American values, instilling values in young people through numerous programs, and a strong nation defense with focus on quality-of-life issues for those serving in today's armed forces.

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