



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Commissaries help promote 2010 Constitution Day Poster Contest

By DeCA Office of Communication

FORT LEE, Va. – Military commissaries worldwide will be displaying colorful signs to help encourage youth in grades K-12, including homeschoolers, to take part in the 2010 Constitution Day Poster Contest.

For the second straight year, the Defense Commissary Agency has joined several other organizations in promoting this contest in hopes that the attention will highlight Constitution Day, Sept. 17, and raise awareness among children about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, voting rights and the need to preserve liberties.

Children can participate in the contest by designing a poster showing how they feel they benefit from the freedoms embodied in the U.S. Constitution. Entries must be postmarked by Oct. 1. Details, resources and entry forms also are available at the GovDoc Kids Group wiki, <http://www.govdocs4children.pbwiki.com> and the FDLP Community at <http://community.fdlp.gov/govdockidsgroup>. Information on contest requirements and the submission deadline also can be found by going to <http://www.ConstitutionFacts.com>.

“We are proud to give our support in helping our youth learn more about the importance of our Constitution,” said Thomas E. Milks, acting DeCA director and CEO. “I hope parents, fellow shoppers and our employees – people everywhere – take time out to learn more about this historic legal document and why it is the foundation of who we are as American citizens.”

Winning students will receive two copies of their posters. Contest winners will be posted on the GovDoc Kids Group wiki on Election Day, Nov. 2. The first 100 entrants will receive a

copy of “The U.S. Constitution & Fascinating Facts About It” – a pocket-size guide to the Constitution provided by ConstitutionFacts.com.

This is the fourth year for the Constitution Day Poster Contest. Since 2007, participation has grown from 161 entries in eight states and a Department of Defense Dependent School in Japan to last year’s 2,395 entries from 37 states and DoDDS schools in Italy, Japan and South Korea.

Constitution Day is observed nationally Sept. 17, on the day that the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the Constitution in 1787. In 2004, the government established it as a federal observance and renamed it from Citizenship Day to Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. As a result, all publicly funded educational institutions are required to provide educational programming on the history of the U.S. Constitution on that day.

The GovDoc Kids Group is comprised of librarians from the Johnson County Library, Overland Park, Kan.; Muskingum University/Visiting Librarian Service, New Concord/New Philadelphia, Ohio; and staff from the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene, Kan.

The group’s objectives are to help engage students in learning about history, culture, science and government through games and other interactive activities; assist teachers and school librarians with locating teaching aids, lesson plans, and exciting tools to enhance students’ learning; and provide librarians with a collection of free government resources to advance their reference interview and collection development decisions.

For more information, contact Government Documents Librarian Martha Childers, Johnson County Library, at 913-495-2464 or via e-mail at childersm@jocolibrary.org or Kimberlee Ried, National Archives & Records Administration, at 816-268-8072, e-mail, kimberlee.ried@nara.gov.

-DeCA-

Photo caption: Jasmyn Coleman, age 9, a fourth grader at Yokota West Elementary School, a Department of Defense School in Yokota Air Base, Japan, was one of 13 national winners in last year’s Constitution Day Poster Contest. Children in grades K-12 can participate in the contest by designing a poster showing how they feel they benefit from the freedoms embodied in the U.S. Constitution. Entries must be postmarked by Oct. 1. Details, resources and entry forms also are available at the GovDoc Kids Group wiki, <http://www.govdocs4children.pbwiki.com> and the FDLP Community at <http://community.fdlp.gov/govdockidsgroup>. Information on contest requirements and the submission deadline also can be found by going to <http://www.ConstitutionFacts.com>.

About DeCA: *The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent*

surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth more than \$4,400 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.