



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/BRYAN KELSEN

Maddyn Doose, 9, of Haaff Elementary School, smiles and sings as she raises her hands with other Pueblo City Schools students at the second annual 'Pride and Patriotism' event at Memorial Hall Thursday night.

EDUCATION

Area students know the meaning of patriotism

Annual D60 event attracts capacity Memorial Hall crowd

BY JON POMPIA
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

It was a fitting and uplifting precursor to Veterans Day, a red-, white- and blue-hued cornucopia that in word, song and art paid tribute to those who served and are serving their country. For the second year, "Pride and Patriotism," a joint venture between Pueblo City Schools (D60), the Center for American Values and local veterans groups, drew a capacity crowd to Memorial Hall Thursday for an evening truly worthy of the Home of Heroes.

Appropriately described by emcee Steve Henson, managing editor of *The Pueblo Chieftain*, as moving enough to bring a tear to the eye and a lump to the throat, "Pride and Patriotism" vividly illustrated students' keen awareness of not only the values that make America great, but the untold sacrifices of servicemen and women. "We have several heroes with us this evening and I'd like to ask all veterans in the audience to please stand so that we can recognize you," said D60 acting Superintendent Charlotte Macaluso, speaking for the district as well as its stu-

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dents. "We live in a great country and it is because of the men and women who have served in our armed forces. "And it is because of people just like you and me who take the time to let them know how much we appreciate them." And while veterans were deservedly

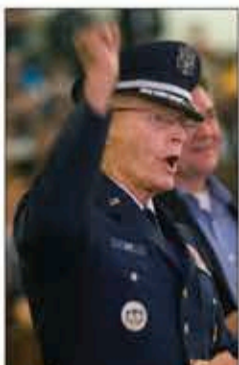
SEE PATRIOTISM, 2A

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given their due, so were the students, who in word and art, paid tribute to them. For their winning entries in an essay contest based on the core values of honor, integrity and patriotism, 12 students, ranging from first-graders to a high school junior, were honored. These top essayists were invited to the stage to be congratulated by a quartet of esteemed veterans — Sheriff Kirk

Taylor (Navy), and retired Brig. Gen. Paul Maye (Air Force), Lt. Col. John Saenz (Army) and Brig. Gen. Thomas Draude (Marine Corps), who also served as the evening's keynote speaker. The work of student artists also received a turn in the spotlight. From original and inspired pieces submitted by high schoolers Jazmyne Whitlock, Emily Dunaway, Shelby Eldridge and Taylor Snow, students throughout the district fashioned gigantic, multimedia recreations that will be displayed at the Center for American

Values. Music also played an integral part of the program, with district-wide choirs and musicians delivering fine renditions of "The Star Spangled Banner," "Marches of the Armed Forces" — during which attending veterans from the various branches were recognized — "I Dream a World" and "America the Beautiful," among others. Especially touching the crowd's heart was a charming original tune, "Home of Heroes," presented by elementary school singers with a special sense of pride. In his keynote remarks, Draude — one of the Marine Corps' most respected and decorated generals who served in both Vietnam (three tours, numerous honors) and Operation Desert Storm



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/BRYAN KELSEN
Retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Maye raises his fist during the playing of the U.S. Air Force Song by the East High School band on Thursday night.

— praised the city and its students for an unwavering allegiance to those who served and fought. "There is a poem in an

PATRIOTIC ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

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| <p>Grades K-2
1st: Benjamin Niemet, Fountain International Magnet School.
2nd: Alexy Iniguez, Bessemer Academy.
3rd: Melonie Barber, South Park Elementary.</p> <p>Grades 3-5
1st: Michael Ceyrolles, Haaff Elementary.
2nd: Aubre Baker, Morton Elementary.
3rd: Daniel Williford,</p> | <p>Bessemer Academy.
Grades 6-8
1st: Elizabeth Rodriguez, Pueblo Academy of Arts.
2nd: Leila Ruyle, Heroes K-8 Academy.
3rd: Bernard Hund, Pueblo Academy of Arts.</p> <p>Grades 9-12
1st: Allison Kelley, South Central.
3rd: Madison Blackwell, Centennial.</p> |
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old sentry box at Gibraltar that reads as follows: "God and the soldier, men adore. In time of danger, not before. When danger's gone, and all things righted, God is forgotten and the soldier slighted." "Well, the author of that poem evidently never came to Pueblo, Colorado," Draude said as applause filled the hall. Continuing, Draude

said of the "Pride and Patriotism" undertaking, "This is special. I'm from Tampa, (Fla.), and I've spent my share of time on the East Coast and we don't have things like this. And shame on us that we don't." "But I think you truly understand your uniqueness." jpompia@chieftain.com

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