



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

April 13, 2009

Dear Arizona educators,

Volunteers from throughout Arizona and beyond are involved in an effort to build a one-of-a-kind memorial in honor of our nation's Veterans – past and present. Now, the Freedom Bridge Foundation is asking all Arizona students to lend their insight and creativity in an essay contest like no other.

As many of you know, Lake Havasu City is already home to one of the state's biggest tourist attractions – the world famous London Bridge. In a few years, thanks to these dedicated volunteers, Lake Havasu City will have a second signature bridge – the Freedom Bridge.


These two bridges will be connected by the Memorial Walkway and the "76 Moments of Freedom," which will tell the story of America's ongoing pursuit of freedom. Arizona State University's nationally-recognized public history department has assisted with the selection of these 76 moments -- ranging from the Jamestown Settlement to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Now, the Freedom Bridge Foundation wants input from students from throughout the state. Every large historical tablet, which will forever be displayed along the Memorial Walkway, will include a short student essay on how each moment advanced the cause of America's freedom. The essay contest, now underway at www.havasufreedombridge.com, challenges students to provide meaningful insight in a limited amount of text.

The contest winners and their schools will be forever famously displayed along this beautiful walkway between two remarkable bridges. The winning students also could be eligible for future scholarship awards.

The Freedom Bridge project has been endorsed by Gov. Jan Brewer, former Gov. Janet Napolitano, myself, Arizona Veterans Services Director Joey Strickland, the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society and many others. Please encourage your students to visit www.havasufreedombridge.com today so they, as well as your school, can truly become a part of history.

Sincerely,


Tom Horne