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Arizona Department of Education  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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## **Statement from Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

**Phoenix, AZ, December 7, 2012** – Today, Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal released the following statement on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day:

“On behalf of the employees of the Arizona Department of Education, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the veterans who bravely fought at Pearl Harbor on this very dark day in America’s history. Each year, we pause on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to pay tribute to our veteran men and women who have put their lives on the line for our country and our freedoms.

We at the Department know first-hand the importance of connecting the children to our veterans through civic engagement, and we pause this day to reflect on a statement that President Ronald Reagan made, ‘Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.’

As educators, we play an important role in helping our children learn about their rights, roles and responsibilities as American citizens. Children will never fully appreciate the freedoms that we as Americans enjoy unless they first understand the origins of our nation, the sacrifices of so many across the generations that came before them and, the courage of our men and women who are once again fighting to preserve freedom across the globe.

Today, let us remember and honor our bravest citizens who have fought to protect our principles of freedom and democracy and to keep us safe.”

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