



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Announces the 2023-2024 Patriot's Pen National Scholarship Winners

First Place winner Bryant Day, from Ashland, Ohio, represented the VFW Department of Ohio, and was awarded the \$5,000 North End Post 144, Paul A. Spera Past Commander-in-Chief Award.

Second Place winner Peeradon Bauman, from Chiang Mai, Thailand, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, and was awarded the \$4,000 VFW Award.

Third Place winner Anisha Hiremath, from Cedar Park, Texas, represented the VFW Department of Texas, and was awarded the \$3,500 VFW Award.

Fourth Place winner Samantha Schillo, from Staffors, Virginia, represented the VFW Department of Virginia, and was awarded the \$2,750 Alaine Benson Memorial Award.

Fifth Place winner Wenonah Brewer-Nyborg, from Franconia, New Hampshire, represented the VFW Department of New Hampshire, and was awarded the \$2,500 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary (Department of Delaware) Award.

Sixth Place winner Emily Hammack, from Rochester, Washington, represented the VFW Department of Washington, and was awarded the \$2,000 Clyde A. Lewis Department of New York and Auxiliary Award.

Seventh Place winner Amya Leach, from Southbury, Connecticut, represented the VFW Department of Connecticut, and was awarded the \$1,750 Dept. of New Hampshire George J. Maxfield Post 1772 and Auxiliary John A. Knapper Memorial Award.

Eighth Place winner Adalyn Pastuszek, from Sunbury, Pennsylvania, represented the VFW Department of Pennsylvania, and was awarded the \$1,500 John F. Gwizdak Award.

Ninth Place winner Colin Gearheart, from Minnie, Kentucky, represented the VFW Department of Kentucky, and was awarded the \$1,500 VFW and James R. and Pat Mueller Award.

10th Place winner Annamae Cummings, from Lewiston, Idaho, represented the VFW Department of Idaho, and was awarded the \$1,500 VFW Award.

Gianna Zhang, from Albany, New York, represented the VFW Department of New York, and was awarded the \$1,250 VFW Award.

Carter O'Neal, from Mendenhall, Mississippi, represented the VFW Department of Mississippi, and was awarded the \$1,250 Grace Minnix Memorial Award.

Ryan Palesano, from Scotts Valley, California, represented the VFW Department of California, and was awarded the \$1,000 Golden Valley VFW Post 7051 (Golden Valley, Minnesota) Award.

Aama Dhawan, from Centennial, Colorado, represented the VFW Department of Colorado, and was awarded the \$1,000 Louis W. Oppenheim VFW Post #1019 Award.

Derek Plichta, from Farwell, Michigan, represented the VFW Department of Michigan, and was awarded the \$1,000 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Colorado Award.

Natalia Hekiert, from Lebanon, New Jersey, represented the VFW Department of New Jersey, and was awarded the \$1,000 John V. Daniel's Jr. Post 2813 and Auxiliary (Department of New York) Award & John E. (Jack) Bales Post 10581 (Department of Colorado) Award (combined).

Nathan Williamson, from Mena, Arkansas, represented the VFW Department of Arkansas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 (Dept. of Maryland) Award & Department of Utah Award (combined).

Ernest Crites, from Santa Fe, New Mexico, represented the VFW Department of New Mexico, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Michigan Award & Warren A. Tressler Memorial (Department of Minnesota) Award (combined).

Caroline Livorsi, from Iowa City, Iowa, represented the VFW Department of Iowa, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Nevada Award & Chaplain Lyman Rollins Post 2005, Marblehead, Massachusetts Award (combined).

Erica Miller, from Wentzville, Missouri, represented the VFW Department of Missouri, and was awarded the \$1,000 Charlie H. Adamson, Jr. Memorial Award & Joseph A. Scerra Memorial (Department of Massachusetts) Award (combined).

Ariah Bostick, from Savannah, Georgia, represented the VFW Department of Georgia, and was awarded the \$1,000 James L. Keeley Award & Department of Ohio Award (combined).

Anexie Martinez, from Mesquite, Nevada, represented the VFW Department of Nevada, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of South Dakota VFW and Auxiliary Award & Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Award (combined).

William Crossan, from Middletown, Delaware, represented the VFW Department of Delaware, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Georgia and Auxiliary Award.

Mackenzie Blaniar, from Fairmont, West Virginia, represented the VFW Department of West Virginia, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Award.

Grant Jauken, from Madison, Alabama, represented the VFW Department of Alabama, and was awarded the \$750 Department of Kansas VFW and Auxiliary Award & Department of Iowa Award (combined).

Holley Denton, from Summerfield, North Carolina, represented the VFW Department of North Carolina, and was awarded the \$750 VFW Department of Washington and Auxiliary Eric G. Sandstrom Memorial Award.

Seth Fontenault, from Smithfield, Rhode Island, represented the VFW Department of Rhode Island, and was awarded the \$500 Glenn D. Raney Memorial (Louisiana) Award.

Landon Beeston, from Spanish Fork, Utah, represented the VFW Department of Utah, and was awarded the \$500 Mary Margaret Romano Memorial (Department of Connecticut) Award.

Ava Wiemer, from Gurnee, Illinois, represented the VFW Department of Illinois, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Southern Conference Award.

Taelyn Baumert, from Clarkson, Nebraska, represented the VFW Department of Nebraska, and was awarded the \$500 Edward S. Banas, Sr. Award.

Sreshna Patange, from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, represented the VFW Department of Minnesota, and was awarded the \$500 Deering Memorial Post 6859, Portland Maine Award.

Amelia Rambur, from Palmer, Alaska, represented the VFW Department of Alaska, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Tennessee John Furgess Award.

Jenna Groven, from Northwood, North Dakota, represented the VFW Department of North Dakota, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Missouri VFW and Auxiliary Award.

Sienna Malekzadeh, from Springfield, Oregon, represented the VFW Department of Oregon, and was awarded the \$500 The Robin V. Fell Memorial Award.

Emily Carlson, from Kailua, Hawaii, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$500 Deering Memorial Post 6859, Auxiliary Portland Maine Award.

Roger Gu, from Hopkinton, Massachusetts, represented the VFW Department of Massachusetts, and was awarded the \$500 Department of South Carolina and Auxiliary Award.

Noah Martin, from Ocala, Florida, represented the VFW Department of Florida, and was awarded the \$500 Sanford-Springvale Memorial VFW Post 9935 Award.

Benjamin Vandebark, from Colome, South Dakota, represented the VFW Department of South Dakota, and was awarded the \$500 Department of California Award.

Mitaali Chopra, from Olney, Maryland, represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Arkansas, "Dewayne Fletcher Memorial" Award.

Brennan Hodge, from Okmugee, Oklahoma, represented the VFW Department of Oklahoma, and was awarded the \$500 Frederick H. Smalley Department of New Mexico Award.

Jacquelyn Lanteigne, from Indianapolis, Indiana, represented the VFW Department of Indiana, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Department of Pacific Areas Award.

Karleigh Sexton, from Winfield, Tennessee, represented the VFW Department of Tennessee, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Department of New Jersey Award.

Noah A. Davis, from Bann, Germany, represented the VFW Department of Europe, and was awarded the \$500 Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio Charities Award.

Patrick Fahey, from Cape Neddick, Maine, represented the VFW Department of Maine, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Award.

Devlin Larson, from Guernsey, Wyoming, represented the VFW Department of Wyoming, and was awarded the \$500 The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Mississippi and Auxiliary Award.

Megan Smith, from Concord, Vermont, represented the VFW Department of Vermont, and was awarded the \$500 Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki and 2015-2016 Department Commanders Award.

DeJon Sylvester, from Denham Springs, Louisiana, represented the VFW Department of Louisiana, and was awarded the \$500 National President Francisca Guilford and 2015-2016 Auxiliaries Award.

Hailey Graves, from Helena, Montana, represented the VFW Department of Montana, and was awarded the \$500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Award.

Addalynn Bradshaw, from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, represented the VFW Unaffiliated Posts, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Nevada Award.

Malaiya Russell, from El Mirage, Arizona, represented the VFW Department of Arizona, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Pennsylvania 2015-16 "LDRSHIP" Award.

Nora Elliott, from Oak creek, Wisconsin, represented the VFW Department of Wisconsin, and was awarded the \$500 Peter J. Mascetti Jr. & Department of Europe Award.

Lucy Alexander, from Natoma, Kansas, represented the VFW Department of Kansas, and was awarded the \$500 VFW and Auxiliary members of Southern Charles County Memorial Post 10081, Department of Maryland Award.

Antonio Singletary, from Salters, South Carolina, represented the VFW Department of South Carolina, and was awarded the \$500 Gilbert N. Nelson Post 1326 and their Auxiliary, Bismarck, ND, Award.

Laura Coderre, from Putnam, Connecticut, represented the National Membership-at-Large, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Award.