



NOTE: Although this press release was designed as a sample Department winner announcement, it can also be used to announce your Post/District winner (with slight text modifications.)

VFW Announces <State> Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winner

<city>, <state abbreviation>. (<month> <day>, <year>) - The VFW Department of <state> is pleased to announce that <winner's full name>, a <grade level> grade student, is the <state> first-place winner of the VFW's <20XX-XX> Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. <Winner's first name>, who was sponsored by VFW Post <name/number> and its Auxiliary in <Post's city>, <Post's state abbreviation>., wrote <his/her> winning essay based on this year's theme, "<insert theme>."

The VFW enacted the Patriot's Pen youth essay competition in 1995 as a way to encourage young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society while improving their writing skills.

The contest is a worldwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7 and 8 the opportunity to write a 300- to 400-word theme-based essay expressing their views on democracy while competing for worthwhile awards and prizes.

Over <number of students> <state> students participated in the competition this year. As one of 53 finalists worldwide, <winner's first name> will compete at the national level for individual awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

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About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at vfw.org.

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