

2008 – 2009 National Citizenship Education Teachers of the Year

Starting in 1999, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Ladies Auxiliary VFW have recognized teachers in Grades K-12 for their promotion of citizenship education in their classrooms with a national awards program. Since its inception the VFW has honored thousands of classroom teachers.

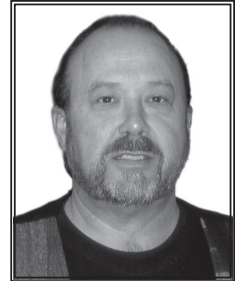
Each national winner receives an award and one thousand dollars each for the individual teacher's professional development and another \$1,000 for his/her school, plus an all expenses-paid trip to the VFW Mid-Winter Conference, February 19-21, in Louisville, Kentucky.

GRADES K – 5 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mark Crawford teaches elementary students at Bowdon Elementary School in Bowdon, Georgia. Mark has been teaching at Bowdon for over 16 years.

Mark is known for his unusual and unique teaching techniques for his social studies classes. He enhances the student's interest in the subject through the use of character portrayal and music. His performances as historical characters ranging from frontiersmen like Davy Crockett, to past presidents like Ulysses S. Grant, helps demonstrate his deep passion for patriotism. But even these are not enough; Mark also served two tours with the Army in the Middle-East.

Mr. Crawford is a graduate of West Georgia College and a life-long resident of Carrollton and Carroll County, Georgia.



Selected by VFW Post#7404 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Carrollton, Georgia.

GRADES 6 – 8 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Brenda Beaven is a middle school teacher at Montgomery Junior High in Montgomery, Texas. She has been teaching for over 25 years.



Her practice of developing good citizenship in her students is reflected in her own example of patriotism through projects such as her work on the "Lone Star Honor Flight" program. Through her efforts 100 veterans were flown to Washington, D.C. to see the WWII Memorial first hand.

Ms. Beaven earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas with Post Graduate work and teacher certification at Lamar University. She was the 2007-2008 President and Co-founder of "Lone Star Honor Flight" and the winner of the 2008 Patriot Award for the Texas Veterans Commission.

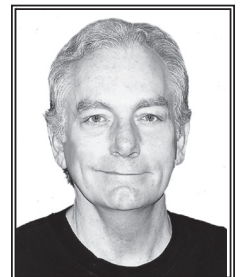
Selected by VFW Post #4709 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Conroe, Texas.

GRADES 9 – 12 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Scott Bendler from Lincoln, Nebraska teaches 10th -12th grades at Bryan Community, a school for at-risk high school students in Lincoln, Nebraska. Scott has been teaching for 26 years.

Scott is one of the main organizers of the "Take a Vet to School" project which not only teaches students about courage and sacrifices, it also introduces the students to a generation of Americans whose deeds became the definition for those words. His project extended far beyond the class room to a nationally coordinated project with The History Channel.

Scott has a Bachelor of Science in Education from University of Nebraska-Lincoln with on-going Post Graduate studies at Nebraska Wesleyan University.



Selected by VFW Post #131 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Lincoln, Nebraska.

VFW CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD 2008 – 2009 – STATE AND OVERSEAS WINNERS
Elementary School (Grs. K – 5) – Middle School (Grs. 6 – 8) – High School (Grs. 9 – 12)

Alabama

Denise Berry
Haleyville Elementary School
Haleyville, Alabama
Catherine K. Collins
Collins-Riverside Middle School
Northport, Alabama
Keri Hamrick
Fort Payne High School
Fort Payne, Alabama

Alaska

Chris J. Hebert
Colony Middle School
Palmer, Alaska
Judy Wasierski
Lower Kuskokwim Sch. District
Bethel, Alaska

Arizona

Christina K. Hoague
La Senita Elementary School
Kingman, Arizona
Brian Wedemeyer
Thunderbolt Middle School
Lake Havasu City, Arizona
Charles Anthony
Hamilton Prep School
Chandler, Arizona

Arkansas

Judy Penquite
Harrison Middle School
Harrison, Arkansas
Todd Allen Watkins
Chaffin Junior High School
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Allyson B. Goodin
Wynne High School
Wynne, Arkansas

California

Karen Harris
Siphed Elementary School
Modesto, California
Johanna Hoyt
Denair Middle School
Denair, California
John Corona
Martin Luther King High Sch.
Riverside, California

Colorado

Larry G. Thompson
Cedaredge Elementary Sch.
Cedaredge, Colorado
Rebecca E. Quinby
North Valley Middle School
La Salle, Colorado
Klark Kinder
Meeker High School
Meeker, Colorado

Connecticut

Renita A. Casey
Kolnaski Magnet School
Groton, Connecticut
Robert L. Hodgson
East Hampton Middle School
East Hampton, Connecticut
Ralph Zingarella
Cheshire High School
Cheshire, Connecticut

Delaware

Cynthia M. Christiansen
Lake Forest N. Elem. School
Felton, Delaware
Pamela Vanderwende
Phillis Wheatley Middle Sch.
Bridgeville, Delaware
Fred L. Brock
Woodbridge High School
Bridgeville, Delaware

District of Columbia

Barrie Moorman
Capital City Public Charter Sch.
Washington, Dist. of Columbia

Europe

Kimberly D. Stephenson
Vicenza Elementary School
Vicenza, Italy
Christopher Bradford
Schweinfurt Middle School
Schweinfurt, Germany
Jack Goldman
Alexander M. Patch High Sch.
Stuttgart, Germany

Florida

John Huft
Wewahitchka Elem. School
Wewahitchka, Florida
Cynthia K. Cheatwood
Orange Park Jr. High School
Orange Park, Florida
Robert M. Hart
West Nassau County High Sch.
Callahan, Florida

Georgia

Mark K. Crawford
Bowdon Elementary School
Bowdon, Georgia
Sue Mullin
J.C. Booth Middle School
Peachtree City, Georgia
David Rooks
Central High School
Carrollton, Georgia

Hawaii

Clifford Lee
Iolani School
Honolulu, Hawaii
Jacqueline Chappel
Sacred Hearts Academy
Honolulu, Hawaii
Mary Alice Chun
Waiialua High & Intermediate
Waiialua, Hawaii

Idaho

Shannon M. Kenyon
Orchards Elementary School
Lewiston, Idaho
Joyce L. Pena
Nampa Middle School
Nampa, Idaho
Kelly MacDonald, Jr.
Clark Fork Jr./Sr. High School
Clark Fork, Idaho

Illinois

Marchelle L. Kassebaum
Ida J. Russell Elem. School
Litchfield, Illinois
David A. Keenan
Hannah Beardsley Middle Sch.
Crystal Lake, Illinois
Conie S. Krause
Litchfield High School
Litchfield, Illinois

Indiana

Debra A. Shields
Poston Road Elem. School
Martinsville, Indiana
John B. Blome
Clark Middle School
Vincennes, Indiana
Douglas T. Wilson
Edgewood High School
Ellettsville, Indiana

Iowa

Marcia J. Burt
Parker Elementary School
Belmond, Iowa
Fran I. Christian
Roland-Story Middle School
Roland, Iowa
David A. Lang
Independence High School
Independence, Iowa

Kansas

Melissa Ann Kennedy
Delaware Ridge Elementary
Kansas City, Kansas
Joyce Cochren
Jackson Heights Elem/Mid Sch.
Holton, Kansas
Chris Doussa
Dodge City High School
Dodge City, Kansas

Kentucky

Juanita Nelson
Campbell Ridge Elementary
Alexandria, Kentucky
Carmen Andrya Thompson
Elkhorn Middle School
Frankfort, Kentucky
Sally F. Robinson
Berea Community High Sch.
Berea, Kentucky

Louisiana

Kelly M. Stomps
Woodlake Elementary School
Mandeville, Louisiana
Martye Martin Golden
Monteleone Jr. High School
Mandeville, Louisiana
Sharon Patton
Plain Dealing Mid/Sr High Sch.
Plain Dealing, Louisiana

Maine

Patricia Begin
Winslow Elementary School
Winslow, Maine
Catherine Cahill Locke
Marshwood Middle School
Eliot, Maine
Heidi M. Heyden
Narraguagus High School
Harrington, Maine

Maryland

Kelly M. Buckley
Trinity School
Ellicott City, Maryland
Debra R. Pustolski
Mt. Savage Middle School
Mt. Savage, Maryland
Douglas A. Tschiffely
DeMatha Catholic High Sch.
Hyattsville, Maryland

Massachusetts

Carol Iozzo-Langlois
Charlton Street Elem. School
Southbridge, Massachusetts
Sandra A. Lawrence
Albert Ford Middle School
Acushnet, Massachusetts
John P. Gallivan
Stoughton High School
Stoughton, Massachusetts

Michigan

Andrew B. Mendini
Central Elementary School
Iron Mountain, Michigan
Ryan B. Hansen
Roseville Junior High School
Roseville, Michigan
Marvin P. Bolthouse
Orchard View High School
Muskegon, Michigan

Minnesota

Shari Opdahl
Glacial Hills Elem. School
Starbuck, Minnesota
William F. Beckman
Maple Grove Jr. High School
Maple Grove, Minnesota
Gene D. Mattila
Staples Motley High School
Staples, Minnesota

Mississippi

Marsha A. Lee
Oak Grove Lower Elementary
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Kelleigh Oliver Reynolds
Biloxi Junior High School
Biloxi, Mississippi
Debbie Jackson
Gautier High School
Gautier, Mississippi

Missouri

Veronica L. Hatton
Harris Elementary School
St. Charles, Missouri
Martha A. Floyd
St. Paul Lutheran School
Jackson, Missouri
Villa M. Waltz
Jasper High School
Jasper, Missouri

Montana

Tamara Anne Bonato
Deer Lodge Elem. School
Deer Lodge, Montana
Darcene Butler
Independent School District #52
Billings, Montana
Bill L. Lombardi
Powell County High School
Deer Lodge, Montana

Nebraska

Sherry Loos
Yutan Elementary School
Yutan, Nebraska
Terri Ann Hogue
Falls City Middle School
Falls City, Nebraska
Scott Bendler
The Bryan Community
Lincoln, Nebraska

Nevada

Cynthia E. Nelson
Grant M. Bowler Elementary
Logandale, Nevada
Kaylene Grosz
Spring Creek Middle School
Spring Creek, Nevada
Craig D. Wolfley
Moapa Valley High School
Overton, Nevada

New Hampshire

Peggy C. Horton
Warren Village School
Warren, New Hampshire
Lori B. Puzzo
James Mastricola Upper Elem.
Merrimack, New Hampshire
James Wojewoda
Merrimack High School
Merrimack, New Hampshire

New Jersey

Marie B. Madamba
Brigantine Elementary School
Brigantine, New Jersey
Susan Grossi-Longo
Mount Arlington Public Sch. Dist.
Mount Arlington, New Jersey
Frank Yusko
Spotswood High School
Spotswood, New Jersey

New Mexico

Victoria L. Dees
Loving Elementary School
Loving, New Mexico
Sherrie A. Gallegos
Mesa Alta Junior High School
Bloomfield, New Mexico
David Nunez
Onate High School
Las Cruces, New Mexico

New York

Phillip H. Immohr
C.V. Starr Intermediate Sch.
Brewster, New York
Bonnie Ellis
Geneseo Central School
Geneseo, New York
Richard V. Acritelli
Rocky Point High School
Rocky Point, New York

North Carolina

Neil S. Underwood
North Lincoln High School
Lincolnton, North Carolina

North Dakota

Carol Geiszler
Viking Elementary School
Grand Forks, North Dakota
Drue Haarsager
Cheney Middle School
West Fargo, North Dakota
Julie A. Fliginger
Harvey High School
Harvey, North Dakota

Ohio

Deborah Wickerham
Chamberlin Hill Intermediate
Findlay, Ohio
Kimberly S. Johnson
Learwood Middle School
Avon Lake, Ohio
Michelle Bailey
Gibsonburg High School
Gibsonburg, Ohio

Oklahoma

Tammy A. Waggoner
Buffalo Valley Elem. School
Talihina, Oklahoma
Janie Stovall
John G. Shero Jr. High School
Wilburton, Oklahoma
Mary James
Nancy W. Taylor High School
Wilburton, Oklahoma

Oregon

Christine Thurmond
Coburg Elementary School
Coburg, Oregon
Bryan DeBolt
Rogue River Middle School
Rogue River, Oregon
Brian D. Young
Roseburg High School
Roseburg, Oregon

Pacific Areas

Angie Susuico
St. Anthony Catholic School
Tamuning, Guam
Martha Castro
St. Anthony Catholic School
Tamuning, Guam
Steve Hollister
Guam High School
Agana Heights, Guam

Pennsylvania

Donna Thrush
Sheshequin-Ulster Elem.
Ulster, Pennsylvania
Tammy L. Templeton
Towanda Jr/Sr High School
Towanda, Pennsylvania
Linda R. Shearer
Connellsville Area Sr. High Sch
Connellsville, Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Joseph A. Cichon, Jr.
Bishop Hendrick High School
Warwick, Rhode Island

South Carolina

Elizabeth Crotty
Summerville Elem. School
Summerville, South Carolina
Wanda Freeman
Forestbrook Middle School
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Dr. Carlanna Hendrick
South Carolina Governor's
School for Science &
Mathematics
Hartsville, South Carolina

South Dakota

Pamela J. Koller
Edgemont Elementary School
Edgemont, South Dakota
Judy Uhrich
Custer Middle School
Custer, South Dakota
Suzanne J. Hollenbeck
Edgemont High School
Edgemont, South Dakota

Tennessee

Kay Douglas
First United Methodist Church
Huntingdon, Tennessee
Monica Morgan
Germantown Middle School
Germantown, Tennessee
Steven M. Sessis
Daniel Boone High School
Gray, Tennessee

Texas

Florine V. Atwood
Eden Elementary School
Eden, Texas
Brenda Beaven
Montgomery Jr. High School
Montgomery, Texas
Tim Layman
Eula High School
Clyde, Texas

Utah

M. Harvey Taylor
Aspen Elementary School
Orem, Utah
Ted Hansen
Oak Canyon Jr. High School
Lindon, Utah
Lloyd Trent Rasmussen
Bear River High School
Garland, Utah

Vermont

Diane Siegriest
Westford Elementary School
Westford, Vermont
Jennifer S. Kramer
Guilford Central School
Guilford, Vermont
Karen A. Bohmann
South Burlington High School
South Burlington, Vermont

Virginia

Bonnie B. Berry
Ottobine Elementary School
Dayton, Virginia
Elizabeth C. Nicholson
S. Gordon Stewart Middle School
Fort Defiance, Virginia
Anne S. Canipe
Cosby High School
Middlethian, Virginia

Washington

Andrea Malpica
Mary M. Knight Elementary
Elma, Washington
Peter Forgey
Canyon Creek Middle School
Washougal, Washington
Greg Raymond
Bremerton High School
Bremerton, Washington

West Virginia

Patricia Lynn Rider
Pleasant Valley Elem. School
Fairmont, West Virginia
Dr. Kimberly S. Jennings
Phillippi Middle School
Phillippi, West Virginia
Stefan L. Smolski
Oak Glen High School
New Cumberland, West
Virginia

Wisconsin

Colleen Perrine
Richmond & Foster Elem.
Appleton, Wisconsin
Karen Schill
East Junior High School
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
Terry W. Stults
Waupaca High School
Waupaca, Wisconsin

Wyoming

Jennet L. Ballinger
Dubois Middle School
Dubois, Wyoming
McKay L. Erickson
Star Valley High School
Afton, Wyoming