



**VFW ANNOUNCES 2009-2010 NATIONAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Kansas City, Missouri -- The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary sponsors the Voice of Democracy audio-essay scholarship competition. The program just finished its 63rd year and requires high school student entrants to write and record a three to five minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. "Does America Still Have Heroes?" was the theme for 2009-2010. All national scholarships totaled \$149,000.

Madison Mullen, a senior at Olentangy Liberty High School has been named the first place winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$30,000 first place VFW T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship Award provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Madison plans a career in law and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3297 and Ladies Auxiliary in Delaware, Ohio.

Anthony Zendejas IV, a senior at Klahowya Secondary School has been named the second place winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$16,000 second place Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship Award provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Anthony plans a career in media and communications and he was sponsored by VFW Post 239 and Ladies Auxiliary in Bremerton, Washington.

Lena Savell, a homeschooled junior, has been named the third place winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$10,000 third place VFW Scholarship Award provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Lena plans a career as a reporter or news anchor for a major news network and she was sponsored by VFW Post 12057 in San Juan, Puerto Rico (VFW Department of Latin America/Caribbean.)

Elissa Stiles, a homeschooled senior, has been named the fourth place winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$7,000 fourth place LeRoy Moorhead Memorial Scholarship Award. This award was provided by former Heavyweight Boxing Champion George Foreman in memory of his father. Elissa plans a career in a position with the US State Department or with a missions/humanitarian organization and she was sponsored by VFW Post 7180 and Ladies Auxiliary in Owasso, Oklahoma.

Brianna Wesley, a senior at Palestine High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$5,000 Floyd County VFW Post 3281, New Albany, Indiana Scholarship Award. Brianna plans a career in cosmetology, writing and photography and she was sponsored by VFW Post 4549 and Ladies Auxiliary in Robinson, Illinois.

Matthew Morris, a senior at T. L. Hanna High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Department of Delaware Scholarship Award. Matthew plans a career in politics and he was sponsored by VFW Post 5996 and Ladies Auxiliary in Anderson, South Carolina.

John Travis Shrontz, a senior at Catholic High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$4,000 Department of Minnesota William F.

Halsey Memorial Scholarship Award. John Travis plans a career as an English teacher at the high school and college level and he was sponsored by VFW Post 5162 in Huntsville, Alabama.

Claire Rossell, a homeschooled senior has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G. Salmon Memorial Scholarship Award. Claire plans a career in journalism and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9755 and Ladies Auxiliary in Washington, DC.

Shelby Getsla, a senior at Mercy High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$3,000 Department of Indiana and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Shelby plans a career in politics and to possibly run for political office and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1205 and Ladies Auxiliary in San Francisco, California.

Sophia Brown, a sophomore at duPont Manual High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$3,000 Joseph and Irene Hansen Memorial Scholarship Award. Sophia's career plans are undecided, but she is interested in physical therapy. She was sponsored by VFW Post 5710 and Ladies Auxiliary in Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

Darylle Garcia, a senior at Lake Havasu High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,500 Daniel Sean Wallace Memorial Scholarship Award. Darylle plans a career in medicine and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9401 and Ladies Auxiliary in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Alyssa McAlvey, a junior at Fellowship Baptist Academy has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,500 Troy and Sandy Rothbart Memorial Scholarship Award. Alyssa plans a career in the social services, journalism, communications, or public relations and she was sponsored by VFW Post 5065 and Ladies Auxiliary in Sheridan, Michigan.

Seth Dorman, a senior at Bangor Christian Schools has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship Award. Seth plans a career as an author, pastor or journalist and he was sponsored by VFW Post 1761 in Bangor, Maine.

Jessica Bauerle, a senior at Hiawatha High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship Award. Jessica plans a career in education and she was sponsored by VFW Post 7285 and Ladies Auxiliary in Sabetha, Kansas.

Joe Wisniewski, a senior at Wheeler High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Cramer/Harrell Scholarship Award. Joe plans a career as a lawyer and he was sponsored by VFW Post 2724 and Ladies Auxiliary in Whiting, Indiana.

John Caswell, a senior at Mt. Anthony Union High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of California and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. John plans a career in the pharmacy-health sciences and he was sponsored by VFW Post 1332 and Ladies Auxiliary in Bennington, Vermont.

Heather Osborn, a junior at Kalaheo High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of Arizona and Auxiliary Harry A. Kosht Memorial Scholarship Award. Heather plans a career as an emergency room doctor and to go into the missions field to open clinics in third-world countries. She was sponsored by VFW Post 10154 in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Daniel Chase Stewart, a junior at Upperman High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of Connecticut & Auxiliary and the Stephen and Elsie Riordan Memorial Scholarship Awards. Chase plans a career in law and he was sponsored by VFW Post 6296 and Ladies Auxiliary in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Kyle Werstein, a senior at Sparta High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of Georgia R.D. "Bulldog" Smith, Jr. and the Department of Ohio Chester J. Koch Memorial Scholarship Awards. Kyle plans a career in graphic design and he was sponsored by VFW Post 10911 and Ladies Auxiliary in Camp Douglas, Wisconsin.

Kaitlyn Frederick, a junior at Carlsbad High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of Alabama and the Department of Georgia James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Memorial Scholarship Awards. Kaitlyn plans a career in environmental law and she was sponsored by VFW Post 8703 and Ladies Auxiliary in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Colin Francis, a senior at Gaithersburg High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Mr. & Mrs. James H. Black and the Jane Young Memorial Scholarship Awards. Colin plans a career as an audio engineer/music recording technician and he was sponsored by VFW Post 350 and Ladies Auxiliary in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Rose Carver, a senior at East Lyme High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Walter & Doris Marshall Memorial and the Southern Conference Scholarship Awards. Rose plans a career in international business relations and she was sponsored by VFW Post 5849 and Ladies Auxiliary in Niantic, Connecticut.

Emily Ripley, a senior at Wasilla High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Francis Tallman Memorial and the Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship Awards. Emily plans a career as a research geneticist and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9365 and Ladies Auxiliary in Wasilla, Alaska.

Adam Weaver, a junior at Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Larry W. Rivers and the Department of Illinois Scott Post 4183 Scholarship Awards. Adam plans a career in medicine (with an interest in the United States Marine Corps) and he was sponsored by VFW Post 8724 and Ladies Auxiliary in Duncansville, Pennsylvania.

Isaiah Qualls, a homeschooled freshman, has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of New Hampshire Dan and Jean Loud Memorial Scholarship Award. Isaiah plans a career in medicine and he was sponsored by VFW Post 2905 and Ladies Auxiliary in Moscow, Idaho.

Evan West, a senior at Keene High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Illinois and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Evan plans a career in political science and he was sponsored by VFW Post 799 and Ladies Auxiliary in Keene, New Hampshire.

Travis Mairder, a senior at North Middlesex High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Missouri and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Travis' career plans are undecided and he was sponsored by both VFW Post 6538 & Ladies Auxiliary in Townsend, Massachusetts and VFW Post 3291 & Ladies Auxiliary in Pepperell, Massachusetts.

Kristina Lee, a senior at Forsyth High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Kristina plans a career in theatre and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1849 and Ladies Auxiliary in Forsyth, Montana.

Johnna Leary, a senior at Brooke High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Massachusetts Edward A. Nardi Scholarship Award. Johnna plans a career as a professional musical theatre performer and actress or a television news anchor or reporter and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2716 and Ladies Auxiliary in Weirton, West Virginia.

Jackie Lemmer, a senior at Chambers Public School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Colorado and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Jackie plans a career in corporate law and she was sponsored by VFW Post 926 and Ladies Auxiliary in O'Neill, Nebraska.

Robert Wilson, a senior at Wilson Catholic Academy has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Arkansas and its Ladies Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial Scholarship Award. Robert plans a career as a military officer and he was sponsored by VFW Post 3917 and Ladies Auxiliary in Security, Colorado.

Caitlyn Howe, a senior at Grand County High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi Toxie K. Stapleton Post 6473 Luther J. Cox Memorial Scholarship Award. Caitlyn plans a career as a wife and mother and also a secondary English teacher. She was sponsored by VFW Post 10900 and Ladies Auxiliary in Moab, Utah.

Megan Gonsalves, a senior at Smithfield High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Tennessee Cooper T. Holt - John Furgess Scholarship Award. Megan plans a career in international relations (as a diplomat) and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2929 and Ladies Auxiliary in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Haley Kesterson, a senior at Lake Hamilton High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship Award. Haley plans to attend medical school and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2278 and Ladies Auxiliary in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Emily Stebbins, a senior at Raytown High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Florida John M. "Jack" Carney Scholarship Award. Emily plans a career as an elementary school teacher and principal and she was sponsored by VFW Post 8100 and Ladies Auxiliary in Grandview, Missouri.

Laney Feraldi-Ackerman, a senior at Pioneer Central School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Laney plans a career as an English teacher and she was sponsored by VFW Post 374 and Ladies Auxiliary in Arcade, New York.

Andrew Bell, a senior at Sussex Technical High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Maine Scholarship "to Remember the U.S.S. Maine" Award. Andrew plans to obtain his doctorate in pharmacy and he was sponsored by VFW Post 4961 and Ladies Auxiliary in Seaford, Delaware.

Cole Remmen, a sophomore at Detroit Lakes High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Bernard J. Michels, Post 9610 and

Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Cole plans a career in either physics or theater/film directing and he was sponsored by VFW Post 1676 and Ladies Auxiliary in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Samuel Johnson, a homeschooled junior has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarship Award. Samuel plans a career in law and he was sponsored by VFW Post 9100 and Ladies Auxiliary in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

John Bartling, a senior at Waukon High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee Scholarship Award. John plans a career in civil engineering and he was sponsored by VFW Post 4117 and Ladies Auxiliary in Waukon, Iowa.

John Finnegan, a sophomore at Warren Hills Regional High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Kansas and Auxiliary Robert R. Whipple Memorial Scholarship Award. John's career plans are undecided and he was sponsored by VFW Post 7856 and Ladies Auxiliary in Flemington, New Jersey.

Brittany New, a senior at Dade County High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Brittany plans a career as a professor of English and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3679 and Ladies Auxiliary in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Pearl Ugwu-Dike, a junior at Sacred Heart School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Bernard McClelland Memorial Scholarship Award. Pearl plans a career in pediatrics/obstetrics and gynecology and to serve in the Peace Corps. She was sponsored by VFW Post 3036 and Ladies Auxiliary in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Nicolas Leeper, a senior at Canterbury School of Florida has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of New Jersey Howard E. Vander Clute Memorial Scholarship Award. Nicolas plans a career as a banker or a producer and he was sponsored by VFW Post 39 and Ladies Auxiliary in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Scott Dykstra, a sophomore at Dakota Valley High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Scott plans a career as an emergency room doctor and he was sponsored by VFW Post 7690 in North Sioux City, South Dakota.

Amanda Reed, a senior at Floresville High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Amanda plans a career in animal science and animal genetics and she was sponsored by VFW Post 8555 and Ladies Auxiliary in Poth, Texas.

Margaret Brown, a sophomore at Kadena High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Nevada and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Margaret plans a career in law enforcement and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9723 in Okinawa, Japan (VFW Department of Pacific Areas.)

Jane Whitmore, a junior at Tigard High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Jane plans a career in music education and/or government service and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3452 and Ladies Auxiliary in Tualatin, Oregon.

Chrisanna Lund, a senior at Niobrara County High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Chrisanna plans a career as a high school history teacher and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3511 and Ladies Auxiliary in Lusk, Wyoming.

Victoria Inman, a junior at Vilseck High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Kentucky and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Victoria plans a career in federal law enforcement and she was sponsored by VFW Post 10692 in Grafenwoehr, Germany (VFW Department of Europe.)

Benjamin Rossell, a homeschooled sophomore, has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 All American Post 284 Scholarship Award. Benjamin plans a career in photography and digital animation and he was sponsored by VFW Post 7916 and Ladies Auxiliary in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Daniel Wendt, a sophomore at Denham Springs High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vicites Memorial Scholarship Award. Daniel plans a career as a band director and/or public servant and he was sponsored by VFW Post 7017 and Ladies Auxiliary in Denham Springs, Louisiana.

Sara Going, a senior at Mineral County High School has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Arthur W. Jones VFW Post 7564 and Auxiliary Scholarship Award. Sara plans a career in environmental engineering and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2313 and Ladies Auxiliary in Hawthorne, Nevada.

Reed Christensen, a freshman at Christensen Academy has been named a winner in the 2010 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Gilbert N. Nelson - Post 1326 and their Auxiliary - Bismarck, North Dakota Scholarship Award. Reed plans a career in video game graphic designing and he was sponsored by VFW Post 760 and Ladies Auxiliary in Jamestown, North Dakota.