

VFW 2008-2009 NATIONAL PATRIOT'S PEN COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Winners in the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Patriot's Pen competition have been announced. In this, the fourteenth year of the program, there were fifty-three finalists, one from 51 participating Departments, and one each from two of the VFW Departments overseas (Europe and Pacific Areas).

All participants will later receive a citation signed by the Commander-in-Chief and Ladies Auxiliary President for participating.

1st Place - Julia Benbrook is the winner of the \$10,000 North End Post 144, Paul A. Spera Past Commander-in-Chief Award U.S. Savings Bond for writing the First Place winning essay in the organization's National Patriot's Pen Competition. Julia is an 8th grade student. Julia was sponsored by VFW Post 1335 and Ladies Auxiliary, Woodward, Oklahoma. *(First place winner will receive her savings bond and a trophy during a special luncheon in Washington, D.C. on April 7, 2009)*

Other top winners are:

2nd Place – Caydon Keller, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2484 and Ladies Auxiliary, Shelby, Montana will receive the \$8,000 VFW U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

3rd Place – Kira Prabhu, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 6259, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey will receive the \$7,000 VFW U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

4th Place – Isaiah Qualls, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2905 and Ladies Auxiliary, Moscow, Idaho will receive \$5,500 The Alaine Ralphs Benson Memorial Scholarship Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

5th Place – W. Benjamin Remington, a 6th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 7318 and Ladies Auxiliary, Southern Pines, North Carolina will receive the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary (Dept. of Delaware) U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

- 6th Place** – **Sarah Mattes**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2204 and Ladies Auxiliary, Rice Lake, Wisconsin will receive the \$4,000 Clyde A. Lewis Dept. of New York and Ladies Auxiliary U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 7th Place** – **Austin Adams**, a 6th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3291, Pepperell, Massachusetts will receive the \$3,500 Dept. of New Hampshire George J. Maxfield Post 1772 and Ladies Auxiliary John A. Knapper Memorial Award U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 8th Place** – **Jacob Tanner**, a 6th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3412 and Ladies Auxiliary, Lake City, South Carolina will receive the \$3,000 John F. Gwizdak Award U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 9th Place** – **Sammuel Lindsey**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 8532 and Ladies Auxiliary, Coal Hill, Arkansas will receive the \$3,000 VFW U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 10th Place** - **Collin Travis**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 11426 and Ladies Auxiliary, Taylorsville, Kentucky will receive the \$2,500 VFW U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond, Glass Etched Plaque, and Wood Plaque for sponsoring Post will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 11th Place** - **Taylor DeWolf**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 4273 and Ladies Auxiliary, Sandy, Oregon will receive the \$2,500 Grace Minnix Memorial Award U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)

- 12th Place** **Daniel MacLennan**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 4012 and Ladies Auxiliary, Northville, Michigan will receive the \$2,000 Golden Valley VFW Post 7051 (Golden Valley, Minnesota) U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 13th Place** **Thomas Trainer**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 4629 and Ladies Auxiliary, LaGrange, Georgia will receive the \$2,000 VFW U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 14th Place** **Taylor Marquis**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 778 and Ladies Auxiliary, Swanton, Vermont will receive the \$1,500 Department of Georgia and its Ladies Auxiliary U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 15th Place** **Sarah Bernard**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3700, Houma, Louisiana will receive the \$1,500 The VFW Department of Washington and Ladies Auxiliary Eric G. Sandstrom Memorial Patriots Pen Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 16th Place** **Joseph Silveira**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 45, Cranston, Rhode Island will receive the \$1,000 John V. Daniel's Jr. Post 2813 and Auxiliary (Dept. of New York) U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 17th Place** **Royce Abela**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3880 and Ladies Auxiliary, Lake Placid, Florida will receive the \$1,000 John E. (Jack) Bales Post 10581, (Dept. of Colorado) U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 18th Place** **Devan Tisdale**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 9534, Mannheim, Germany (Department of Europe, VFW) will receive the \$1,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562, (Dept. of Maryland) U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

- 19th Place** **Rachel Sefton**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 9760 and Ladies Auxiliary, Berryville, Virginia will receive the \$1,000 Department of Utah U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 20th Place** **Kathleen Rice**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 757 and Ladies Auxiliary, Maddock, North Dakota will receive the \$1,000 Department of Michigan U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 21st Place** **Raleigh Kibort**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 7051 and Ladies Auxiliary, Golden Valley, Minnesota will receive the \$1,000 Warren A. Tressler Memorial Award (Dept. of Minnesota) U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 22nd Place** **Sarah Todaro**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3257, Wilmington, Delaware will receive the \$1,000 Department of Nevada U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 23rd Place** **Patrick Leo**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 26, Lima, New York will receive the \$1,000 Chaplain Lyman Rollins Post 2005, Marblehead, Massachusetts U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 24th Place** **Jennifer Kreps**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3052, Ridgefield, Connecticut will receive the \$1,000 Charlie H. Adamson, Jr. Memorial U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)
- 25th Place** **Noel Bien Carlos**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2917 and Ladies Auxiliary, Agat, Guam (Department of Pacific Areas, VFW) will receive the \$1,000 Joseph A. Scerra Memorial Award (Dept. of Massachusetts) U.S. Savings Bond. (*Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.*)

- 26th Place** **Catlin Mitts**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 5517 and Ladies Auxiliary, Winfield, Missouri will receive the \$1,000 James L. Keeley Youth Essay Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 27th Place** **Erin Wroblewski**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 1064, Huntington, West Virginia will receive the \$1,000 Department of Ohio U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 28th Place** **Amirah Chaplin**, a 6th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 7284 and Ladies Auxiliary, Washington, D.C. will receive the \$1,000 Department of South Dakota VFW and Ladies Auxiliary U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 29th Place** **Tyler McCardell**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 3575, Holtwood, Pennsylvania will receive the \$1,000 Dept. of Idaho and its Ladies Auxiliary U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 30th Place** **Katherine Lightfoot**, a 6th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 6022 and Ladies Auxiliary, Cottondale, Alabama will receive the \$1,000 Glenn D. Raney Memorial Award (LA) U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 31st Place** **Arrayana Edwards**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 2350 and Ladies Auxiliary, Elko, Nevada will receive the \$1,000 Mary Margaret Romano Memorial Award (Dept. of CT) U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 32nd Place** **Eric Styskal**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 688, Boerne, Texas will receive the \$1,000 VFW Southern Conference Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 33rd Place** **Elisa Szasz**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 6519 and Ladies Auxiliary, Chardon, Ohio will receive the \$1,000 Edward S. Banas, Sr. Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

- 34th Place** **Rebecca Garner** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 10080, Pylesville, Maryland will receive the \$1,000 Deering Memorial Post 6859, Portland Maine Scholarship U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 35th Place** **Vincent Miramontes** a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 2828, Redondo Beach, California will receive the \$1,000 Department of Tennessee John Furgess Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 36th Place** **Curtis Broadbent** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4939 and Ladies Auxiliary, McKenzie, Tennessee will receive the \$1,000 Department of Missouri VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 37th Place** **Maya Bloom** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 11490, Contoocook, New Hampshire will receive the \$1,000 James R. and Pat Mueller Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 38th Place** **Madison Freeman** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 1186 and Ladies Auxiliary, Independence, Kansas will receive the \$1,000 The Robin V. Fell Memorial Award U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 39th Place** **Vincent Lombardo** a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4525, Waldoboro, Maine will receive the \$1,000 Deering Memorial Post 6859, Ladies Auxiliary Portland Maine U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 40th Place** **Troy Oliver** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 3036, Hattiesburg, Mississippi will receive the \$1,000 Department of South Carolina and it's Ladies Auxiliary U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

- 41st Place** **Hannah Magill** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 6157 and Ladies Auxiliary, Arnold, Nebraska will receive the \$1,000 Sanford-Springvale Memorial VFW Post 9935 U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 42nd Place** **Makai Lynn Smith** a 6th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 10221 and Ladies Auxiliary, Anchor Point, Alaska will receive the \$1,000 Department of California U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 43rd Place** **Eric Cheung** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 6870, Chicago, Illinois will receive the \$1,000 Department of Arkansas, “Dewayne Fletcher Memorial” U.S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 44th Place** **Heather Hadden** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 9399 and Ladies Auxiliary, Apache Junction, Arizona will receive the \$1,000 Frederick H. Smalley Department of New Mexico Patriots Pen Scholarship U. S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*
- 45th Place** **Maximilian Beringer** a 6th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 3586 and Ladies Auxiliary, Salt Lake City, Utah will receive the \$1,000 VFW Department of Pacific Areas U. S. Savings Bond. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

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