



VFW 2009-2010 PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

1st Place - Abigail Barnard 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. Abigail is an 8th grade student. Abigail was sponsored by VFW Post 7385, Mesquite, Nevada. *(First place winner will receive her savings bond and a trophy during a special luncheon in Washington, D.C. on March 7, 2010)*

Other top winners are:

2nd Place – Nora Faris, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 5649 and Ladies Auxiliary, Concordia, Missouri 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 – Ariela Rivkin, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 1429 Teaneck, 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 – Daniel Wakefield, a 6th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 1481 and Ladies Auxiliary, Ogden, Utah 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 – Therese Kuhlman, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 839 and Ladies Auxiliary, Marshalltown, Iowa 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** – **Jack Hesse**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 9760 and Ladies Auxiliary, Berryville, Virginia 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** – **Savanah Husebye**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 1326 and Ladies Auxiliary, Bismarck, North Dakota 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** – **Conor Harrington**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 6471 and Ladies Auxiliary, Manchester, Vermont 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** – **Wagner Nors**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 4819 and Ladies Auxiliary, West, Texas 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** - **Brianna Cart**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 1371 and Ladies Auxiliary, Owego, New York 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** - **Lyndsie Kiebert**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 10320, Clark Fork, Idaho 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** **Sydney Elmer**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 4642, Linden, 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** **Gabriel Schroeder**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 92 and Ladies Auxiliary, Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania 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** **Vincent Grap**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2528 and Ladies Auxiliary, Tucumcari, New Mexico 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** **Devin Wilson**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 1335, Woodward, Oklahoma 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** **Amelia Henkel**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 10011 and Ladies Auxiliary, North Providence, 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** **Elizabeth Laskowski**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 8514 and Ladies Auxiliary, Osseo, Wisconsin 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** **William Newlon**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 6506 and Ladies Auxiliary, Rosedale, Maryland 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** **Lindsey Alexander**, a 6th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 1427 and Ladies Auxiliary, Charlestown, Indiana 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** **Keren Kabami**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3164 and Ladies Auxiliary, Canton, South 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** **Brianna Cirone**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 11553 and Ladies Auxiliary, Harrington, Maine 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** **Hannah Sloan**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2771 and Ladies Auxiliary, Kinston, North Carolina 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** **Aliyah Barnwell**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 10614, Kaiserlautern, Germany (VFW Department of Europe) 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** **Kristen Watkins**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 4973 and Ladies Auxiliary, Linden, Tennessee 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** **Kelsey Ashley**, a 6th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3036 and Ladies Auxiliary, Harriesburg, Mississippi 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** **Riley Hawker**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 7972, Ransom, Kansas 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** **Ryan Dickerson**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 6941 and Ladies Auxiliary, Wellington, Ohio 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** **Emma Wilson**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 11254, Hampstead, New Hampshire 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** **Andrew Southard**, a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 7392 and Ladies Auxiliary, Oak Harbor, Washington 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** **Chuli Zeng**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 10694 and Ladies Auxiliary, Santa Ana, California 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** **Lauren Coleman**, a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 2779, Orangeburg, South Carolina 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** **Kathleen Jackson**, a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4903 and Ladies Auxiliary, Tucson, Arizona 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** **Kyle Newton**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4501, Batesville, Arkansas 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** **Isabel Yeoh** a 6th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 1540 and Ladies Auxiliary, Honolulu, Hawaii 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** **Earl Edwards** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 9926, Mason, West Virginia 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** **Michael Potts** a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4750 and Ladies Auxiliary, Hermiston, Oregon 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** **Gus Beisel** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 660, Savannah, Georgia 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** **Audra Keehn** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 10725, Gretna, Nebraska 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** **Kylie Tumiatti** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4536 and Ladies Auxiliary, Palm Bay, Florida 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** **Alfonso Garcia** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 2917, Agat, Guam (VFW Department of Pacific Areas) 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** **Jessica Vaughan** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 1298, Bowling Green, Kentucky 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** **Nina Bidikov** a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 924 and Ladies Auxiliary, Anniston, Alabama 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 **Elijah Seo** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4946, Naperville, 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 **Randi Adams** a 6th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 3619 and Ladies Auxiliary, De Ridder, Louisiana 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 **Katie Burgert** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 2461 and Ladies Auxiliary, Denver, Colorado 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.)*

46th Place **Kelsey Ripley** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 6774, Billings, Montana will receive the \$1,000 VFW Department of New Jersey Award. *(Savings Bond will be sent to Department Headquarters for presentation during Department Convention or other appropriate event.)*

In this, the fifteenth year of the program, there were fifty-four finalists, one from 51 participating Departments, and one each from three of the VFW Departments overseas (Europe, Latin America and Pacific Areas).

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

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