



VFW 2010-2011 NATIONAL PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

1st Place - **Julia Ann Funk** 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 a 7th grade student. Julia was sponsored by VFW Post 9539 and Ladies Auxiliary, Roebuck, South Carolina. (*First-place winner will receive her savings bond and a trophy during the Parade of Winners in Washington, D.C. on March 6, 2011*)

Other top winners are:

2nd Place - **Camila Maria Gomez**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3822, Department of Latin America/Caribbean, 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 - **Matthew Heritage**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 4853, Jourdanton, Texas 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 - **Devin Straley**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 6471 and Ladies Auxiliary, Manchester, Vermont 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 - **Schaefer Thelen**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2326 and Ladies Auxiliary, Grand Haven, Michigan 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 - **Jessica Ackendort**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 9249 and Ladies Auxiliary, Grand Island, New York 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 - **Jesse Ormand**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 549 and Ladies Auxiliary, Tucson, Arizona 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 –** **Natalie Dvarak**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2543 and Ladies Auxiliary, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 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 –** **Christopher Rapp**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 6765 and Ladies Auxiliary, Wanaque, New Jersey 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 -** **Matthew Loxley**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 8312 and Ladies Auxiliary, Beavercreek, Ohio 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 -** **Sidney Fenn**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 224, Aberdeen, Washington 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** **Peyton Humphreys**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 9926 and Ladies Auxiliary, Mason, West Virginia 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** **Katie Fink**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 9644 and Ladies Auxiliary, Sheridan, Colorado 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** **Hannah Gierhart**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 9059 and Ladies Auxiliary, Dartmouth, Massachusetts 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** **Jacob Mitchell**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 5311, Christiansburg, Virginia 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** **Kyra Hanson**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 4039, Creswell, Oregon 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** **Abigail Nelson**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 9759 and Ladies Auxiliary, Loves Park, Illinois 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** **Hunter Massey**, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 6651, Wilson, North Carolina 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** **Jared Vollstedt**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 10252, Anchorage, Alaska 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** **Melanie Martins**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 3586 and Ladies Auxiliary, Salt Lake City, Utah 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** **Sierra Polzin**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 6705 and Ladies Auxiliary, Denmark, Wisconsin 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** **Elizabeth Veale**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2434 and Ladies Auxiliary, Biloxi, Mississippi 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** **Alexander Williams**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 5846, Rogersville, Alabama 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** **Dante Sparaco**, a 6th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 1793 and Ladies Auxiliary, Raton, New Mexico 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** **Madeline Stephens**, an 8th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 1733, Knoxville, Tennessee 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** **Dominic Zamboni**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 9211 and Ladies Auxiliary, Reno, Nevada 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** **Corrine Quiggle**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 2391 and Ladies Auxiliary, St. Augustine, Florida 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** **Christopher Lord**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 5390 and Ladies Auxiliary, Portsmouth, Rhode Island 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** **Robert Roundy**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 10102 and Ladies Auxiliary, Burlington, Iowa 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** **Caitlin Hutchison**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 10614, Kaiserlautern, Germany (VFW Department of Europe) 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** **Christina McDonough**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 10080, Pylesville, Maryland 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** **Brynn Hoggan**, a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 753 and Ladies Auxiliary, Minot, North Dakota 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** **Samuel Scaggs**, an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4501 and Ladies Auxiliary, 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** **Ada Tusa** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 8720 and Ladies Auxiliary, Abita Springs, Louisiana 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** **Miriam Backhaus** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4099 and Ladies Auxiliary, Sidney Montana 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** **Anna Story** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 5976, Douglas, Georgia 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** **Taylor Savant** a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 5263 and Ladies Auxiliary, Lawton, Oklahoma 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** **Sam Stevens** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 887 and Ladies Auxiliary, Augusta, Maine 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** **Sydney Twyman** a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 175, Doylestown, Pennsylvania 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** **Alexandra Griffiths** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 5813 and Ladies Auxiliary, Greensburg, Kentucky, will receive the \$1,000 Department of South Carolina and 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** **Sadie Eitemiller** a 7th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 7319 and Ladies Auxiliry, Wagner, South Dakota 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** **Katelynn Hernandez** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 4471 and Ladies Auxiliary, Guernsey, Wyoming 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** **Eileen O'Brien** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 2962 and Ladies Auxiliary, Carlton, Minnesota 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** **Code Bracelin** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 1528 and Ladies Auxiliary, St. Francis, Kansas 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** **Andrew Abbott** a 6th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 6483 and Ladies Auxiliary, Milford, Delaware 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** **Patrick Keefe** an 8th grade student sponsored by VFW Post 11254, Hampstead, New Hampshire 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 sixteenth 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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