VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 NATIONAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Kansas City, Missouri, February 29, 2016-- The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and VFW Auxiliary sponsors the Voice of Democracy audio-essay scholarship competition. The program just finished its 69th year and requires high school student entrants to write and record a three to five minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. “My Vision for America” was the theme for 2015-2016. All national scholarship awards totaled $153,000.

Grayson Campbell, a senior at Covenant Christian School has been named the first place winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $30,000 T. C. Selman Memorial Scholarship provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Grayson plans a career in law and he was sponsored by VFW Post 10555 and Auxiliary in Panama City Beach, Florida.

John Dykstra, a freshman at Heritage Christian School has been named the second place winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. John plans a career in nursing and he was sponsored by VFW Post 1774 and Auxiliary in La Mesa, California.

Christopher Oulds, a senior at Eufaula High School has been named the third place winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $10,000 VFW Scholarship provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Christopher plans a career in mechanical engineering and he was sponsored by VFW Post 8798 and Auxiliary in Eufaula, Oklahoma.

Hope Roberts, a senior at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School has been named the fourth place winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $7,000 LeRoy Moorhead Memorial Scholarship. This award was provided by former Heavyweight Boxing Champion George Foreman in memory of his father. Hope plans a career in broadcast journalism and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3383 and Auxiliary in Akron, Ohio.

Hannah von Werder, a senior at West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $5,000 Floyd County VFW Post 3281, New Albany Indiana Scholarship. Hannah plans a career in marketing and medical studies and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1154 and Auxiliary in Lafayette, Indiana.

Julia Holder, a senior at Olympia High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Dept. of Delaware Scholarship. Julia plans a career as a speech therapist and she was sponsored by VFW Post 318 and Auxiliary in Olympia, Washington.

Deanna Cantu, a senior at Elmwood High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $4,000 Department of Minnesota William F. Halsey Memorial Scholarship. Deanna plans a career in acting and she was sponsored by VFW Post 4724 in Elmwood, Illinois.
Jack Duffy, a senior at Kenesaw Secondary School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G. Salmon Memorial Scholarship. Jack plans a career in politics or education and he was sponsored by VFW Post 5537 and Auxiliary in Heartwell, Nebraska.

Xiadi Zhai, a sophomore at Boston Latin School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $3,000 Department of Indiana and Auxiliary Scholarship. Xiadi plans a career as a psychiatrist and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2902 in West Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Madeline Peltzer, a homeschooled junior has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $3,000 Joseph and Irene Hansen Memorial Scholarship. Madeline plans a career in either classical liberal arts, law, government, history or economics (or as an intern for a Congressman or for Fox News) and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9829 in Payson, Arizona.

Olivia Young, a senior at Calvary Christian Academy has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $2,500 Daniel Sean Wallace Memorial Scholarship. Olivia plans a career as an astrophysicist at NASA and she was sponsored by VFW Post 6775 and Auxiliary in Mc Coole, Maryland.

Daniel Winston, a homeschooled sophomore at Winston Learning Academy, has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $2,500 Troy and Sandy Rothbart Memorial Scholarship. Daniel career plans are undecided. He was sponsored by VFW Post 7478 and Auxiliary in Greenwood, Delaware.

Hannah Houtz, a senior at West Perry High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship. Hannah plans a career in foreign languages and linguistics and she was sponsored by VFW Post 7463 and Auxiliary in New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania.

Austin Lentsch, a senior at Theodore F. Riggs High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship. Austin plans a career in either biotechnical engineering or international business and he was sponsored by VFW Post 2038 and Auxiliary in Pierre, South Dakota.

Claire Latendresse, a junior at French International School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $2,000 Department of Arizona and Auxiliary Harry A. Kosht Memorial Scholarship. Claire plans a career in microbiology and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2460 in Washington, DC.

Christopher Lindsay, a junior at Iolani School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $2,000 Department of California and Auxiliary Scholarship. Christopher plans a career in scientific research and he was sponsored by VFW Post 110 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Quinn Skidmore, a senior at West Bend West High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $2,000 Department of Illinois VFW - Ray Soden/George Cramer Scholarship. Quinn plans a career in nursing and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1393 and Auxiliary in West Bend, Wisconsin.

Elisabeth Barnett, a homeschooled junior has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $2,000 Department of Wisconsin Wally Hogan/Tom Tradewell Commanders-in-Chief Scholarship. Elisabeth plans a career in finding cures for neurodegenerative diseases and she was sponsored by VFW Post 7581 and Auxiliary in Wayland, Michigan.
Emily Skinner, a senior at Star Valley High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Francis Tallman Memorial & $1,000 Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Emily plans a career as an exotic animal veterinarian and she was sponsored by VFW Post 4797 and Auxiliary in Afton, Wyoming.

E'lan Grenier, a senior at Su Valley Junior/Senior High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Walter and Doris Marshall Memorial & $1,000 Southern Conference Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). E'lan plans a career as a novelist and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3836 and Auxiliary in Talkeetna, Alaska.

Hailey Crowder, a senior at Heber Spring High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black and $1,000 Jane Young Memorial Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Hailey plans a career as a nurse practitioner and she was sponsored by VFW Post 7514 and Auxiliary in Quitman, Arkansas.

Meghana Bharadwaj, a senior at Lafayette High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Alabama & $1,000 Department of Georgia James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Memorial Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Meghana plans a career as a lawyer and she was sponsored by VFW Post 6274 and Auxiliary in Ballwin, Missouri.

Quindelynne Hasler, a junior at Fertile-Beltrami High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Georgia R. D. "Bulldog" Smith, Jr. & $1,000 Department of Ohio Chester J. Koch Memorial Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Quindelynne plans a career as a travel writer/journalist and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1902 and Auxiliary in Crookston, Minnesota.

Luis Perez, a senior at the Palmas Academy has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary & $1,000 Stephen and Elsie Riordan Memorial Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Luis plans a career in either law, business, or music promotion and he was sponsored by VFW Post 11113 in Ceiba, Puerto Rico.

Madison Davis, a senior at Station Camp High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Larry W. Rivers & $1,000 Department of Illinois Scott Post 4183 Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Madison plans a career in in speech writing and political operations and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9851 and Auxiliary in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Anna Snell, a homeschooled senior at Mother of Divine Grace has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 All American Post 284 & $1,000 Bernard J. Michels, Post 9610 and Auxiliary Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Anna plans a career in education and she was sponsored by VFW Post 12113 and Auxiliary in Thompson Falls, Montana.

Kate Howley, a junior at Avon High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee & $1,000 Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Kate plans a career in in the field of foreign language and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3272 and Auxiliary in Avon, Connecticut.

Anna Knapp, a homeschooled sophomore at Aletheia Academy has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary & $1,000 Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarships (for a total of $2,000). Anna plans a career in nursing and she was sponsored by VFW Post 7285 and Auxiliary in Sabetha, Kansas.

Kelly Conley, a junior at Portsmouth High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,500 Department of Arkansas and Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial
Scholarship. Kelly plans a career as a nurse practitioner and she was sponsored by VFW Post 5390 and Auxiliary in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

Abigail Ham, a freshman at Lyndon Institute has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,500 Department of Colorado and Auxiliary Scholarship. Abigail plans a career as an intensive care nurse or a paramedic and she was sponsored by VFW Post 798 and Auxiliary in Newport, Vermont.

William Collins, a senior at Lockport High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,500 Department of Illinois and Auxiliary Scholarship. William plans a career in biomedical engineering and he was sponsored by VFW Post 2535 and Auxiliary in Lockport, New York.

Greta Chen, a junior at Vestavia Hills High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,500 Department of Massachusetts Edward A. Nardi Scholarship. Greta plans a career in law and she was sponsored by VFW Post 668 and Auxiliary in Birmingham, Alabama.

Samuel Riley, a senior at Saint Ansgar High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,500 Department of Missouri and Auxiliary Scholarship. Samuel plans a career in writing and he was sponsored by VFW Post 7920 and Auxiliary in Osage, Iowa.

Anne Wen, a sophomore at St. John's School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,500 Department of New Hampshire Scholarship. Anne plans a career in either international business or hotel management and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2917 in Agat, Guam (Department of Pacific Areas).

Emma Risley, a junior at the Marine Academy of Science and Technology has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship. Emma plans a career as a politician and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2639 and Auxiliary in Neptune, New Jersey.

Kaley Jean, a junior at Merrimack High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Arthur W. Jones VFW Post 7564 and Auxiliary Scholarship. Kaley plans a career in Genetics and Molecular Biology and she was sponsored by VFW Post 8641 and Auxiliary in Merrimack, New Hampshire.

Corinne Corbin, a junior at Caribou High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank and 2010-2011 Department Commanders Scholarship. Corinne plans a career as a foreign language teacher and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9389 and Auxiliary in Caribou, Maine.

Nathan Swaim, a junior at Union Grove Christian School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Florida John M. ‘Jack’ Carney Scholarship. Nathan plans a career in law and politics and he was sponsored by VFW Post 3074 and Auxiliary in Lexington, North Carolina.

Austin Hannon, a senior at Fitzgerald High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Scholarship. Austin plans a career in choral music education and he was sponsored by VFW Post 5250 and Auxiliary in Tifton, Georgia.

Hannah Nelson, a freshman at Ramstein High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Scholarship. Hannah plans a career in teaching either math or history and she was sponsored by VFW Post 10614 in Kaiserslэтtern, Germany (VFW Department of Europe).
Gillian Jinkins, a senior at Mendenhall High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Kansas and Auxiliary Robert R. Whipple Memorial Scholarship. Gillian plans a career in either music education or law and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9122 and Auxiliary in Magee, Mississippi.

Brittany Benson, a junior at Grand Forks Central High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Kentucky and Auxiliary Brian Duffy and Marion Watson Scholarship. Brittany plans a career in business or business economics and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1874 and Auxiliary in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Catherine Hale, a junior at Genoa-Hugo High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Maine Scholarship "to Remember the U.S.S. Maine". Catherine plans a career as a trauma nurse and she was sponsored by VFW Post 6612 and Auxiliary in Hugo, Colorado.

George Tryfiates, a senior at Fredericksburg Christian High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Mississippi Toxie K. Stapleton Post 6473 Luther J. Cox Memorial Scholarship. George’s career plans are undecided, but he is considering a career in social/natural sciences or writing and he was sponsored by VFW Post 3103 and Auxiliary in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Vincent Pinti, a freshman at Bridgeport High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Mississippi VFW and Auxiliary Bernard McClelland Memorial Scholarship. Vincent plans a career as a lawyer and he was sponsored by VFW Post 573 and Auxiliary in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Jonathan Cannon, a senior at Dutch Fork High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Nevada and Auxiliary Scholarship. Jonathan plans a career in architectural engineering and he was sponsored by VFW Post 6561 in Saluda, South Carolina.

Rachel Lahowetz, a junior at Ross S. Sterling High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of New Jersey Howard E. Vander Clute Memorial Scholarship. Rachel plans a career as a researcher in microbiology or virology and she was sponsored by VFW Post 912 and Auxiliary in Baytown, Texas.

Lydia Caroe, a senior at Alma d'Arte Charter High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vicites Memorial Scholarship. Lydia plans a career as a hotel development executive and she was sponsored by VFW Post 10124 and Auxiliary in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Connor Cottingham, a homeschooled sophomore at Great Basin has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Tennessee Cooper T. Holt - John Furgess Scholarship. Connor plans a career as a US Navy Pilot and he was sponsored by VFW Post 6147 in Malin, Oregon.

Alissa Dorman, a sophomore at Madison High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Scholarship. Alissa plans a career as a mother and a piano instructor and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3012 and Auxiliary in Rexburg, Idaho.

Annika Thorup, a senior at Taylorsville High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Gilbert N. Nelson - Post 1326 and their Auxiliary - Bismarck,
North Dakota Scholarship. Annika plans a career in piano performance and she was sponsored by VFW Post 7442 in West Valley City, Utah.

Ramsey Draskovich, a senior at Virgin Valley High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Mr. and Mrs. John Biedrzycki and the 2015 Homecoming Committee Scholarship. Ramsey plans a career in computer engineering and he was sponsored by VFW Post 7385 in Mesquite, Nevada.

Katherine Beyer, a junior at Vandebilt Catholic High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship. Katherine plans a career as a speech pathologist and she was sponsored by VFW Post 8538 and Auxiliary in Larose, Louisiana.

Andrew Bowlus, a homeschooled junior has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the $1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Auxiliary Scholarship. Andrew is considering a career in either military service or engineering and he was sponsored by VFW Post 1913 and Auxiliary in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.