



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ANNOUNCES 2016-2017 NATIONAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Kansas City, Missouri, February 28, 2017-- 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 70th year and requires high school student entrants to write and record a three to five minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. "My Responsibility to America" was the theme for 2016-2017. All national scholarship awards totaled \$154,000.

Savannah Wittman, a senior at Bret Harte High School, has been named the first place winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Savannah plans a career in Veterinary Medicine and she was sponsored by VFW Post 12118 and Auxiliary in Copperopolis, California.

Colton Ramsey, a junior at Mount Airy Christian Academy, has been named the second place winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Colton plans a career in international business and he was sponsored by VFW Post 10076 in Mount Airy, Maryland.

Katherine Fastabend, a senior at Centennial High School, has been named the third place winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$10,000 VFW Scholarship provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Katie plans a career as a mother, a professional editor/counselor, or as an earth science teacher and she was sponsored by VFW Post 63 and Auxiliary in Boise, Idaho.

William Church, a senior at Fairview High School, has been named the fourth place winner in the 2017 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. Will plans a career as an attorney and to serve his country in public office. He was sponsored by VFW Post 6141 in Fairview, Oklahoma.

Taylor Chatmon, a senior at Daviess County High School, has been named the fifth place winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$5,000 Floyd County VFW Post 3281, New Albany Indiana Scholarship. Taylor plans a career in nursing and she was sponsored by VFW Post 696 and Auxiliary in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Allison Reinhardt, a senior at Bozeman High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Dept. of Delaware Scholarship. Allison plans a career in engineering or pre-medicine and she was sponsored by VFW Post 12112 in Belgrade, Montana.

Olivia Monteleone, a senior at the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$4,000 Department of Minnesota William F. Halsey Memorial Scholarship. Olivia plans a career in genetics and microbiology and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2140 and Auxiliary in Long Branch, New Jersey.

Dylan Carpenter, a senior at Leake Central High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G. Salmon Memorial Scholarship. Dylan plans a career as a Pediatric Hematology Oncologist and he was sponsored by VFW Post 4970 and Auxiliary in Carthage, Mississippi.

Sarah Brown, a homeschooled senior, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$3,000 Department of Indiana and Auxiliary Scholarship. Sarah plans a career in government/politics/pre-law and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1039 and Auxiliary in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

Benjamin Yantes, a senior at St. Mary's Central High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$3,000 Joseph and Irene Hansen Memorial Scholarship. Benjamin plans a career in nursing and he was sponsored by VFW Post 1326 and Auxiliary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Daniel Caroe, a junior at Desert Springs Christian Academy, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,500 Daniel Sean Wallace Memorial Scholarship. Daniel plans a career as a political analyst and he was sponsored by VFW Post 10124 and Auxiliary in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Alyssa Muller, a junior at Riverton High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,500 Troy and Sandy Rothbart Memorial Scholarship. Alyssa plans a career as a lawyer and she was sponsored by VFW Post 8307 and Auxiliary in Layton, Utah.

Jay Falk, a junior at T.C. Williams High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship. Jay plans a career in public office and she was sponsored by VFW Post 609 and Auxiliary in Alexandria, Virginia.

Katherine Simpson, a senior at Spencer High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship. Katherine plans a career as a US Ambassador or to work in the foreign branch of a company. She was sponsored by VFW Post 3159 and Auxiliary in Spencer, Iowa.

Max Hawkins, a senior at Roosevelt High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of Arizona and Auxiliary Harry A. Kosht Memorial Scholarship. Max plans a career as a renewable energy engineer and intends to run for public office. He was sponsored by VFW Post 628 and Auxiliary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Gabrielle Jones, a senior at Warren G. Harding High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of California and Auxiliary Scholarship. Gabby plans a career in Corporate Law and Business Management and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1090 and Auxiliary in Warren, Ohio.

Luke Maynus, a freshman at Capital High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of Illinois VFW – Ray Soden/George Cramer Scholarship. Luke plans a career in either political science or as a writer and he was sponsored by VFW Post 9796 in Milton, West Virginia.

Samantha Calcutt, a senior at Colleton County High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of Wisconsin Wally Hogan/Tom Tradewell Commanders-in-Chief Scholarship. Samantha plans a career in the medical field and she was sponsored by VFW Post 12102 and Auxiliary in Walterboro, South Carolina.

Aidan Busch, a senior at Palatine High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Department of Kentucky and Auxiliary Brian Duffy and Marion Watson Scholarship. Aidan plans a career in Government Service and he was sponsored by VFW Post 1337 in Mount Prospect, Illinois.

Laura Latendresse, a sophomore at French International School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Francis Tallman Memorial & the \$1,000 Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Laura plans a career as an astrophysicist and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2460 in Washington, DC.

Grace Lehfeldt, a senior at Heber Springs High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Walter and Doris Marshall Memorial & the \$1,000 Southern Conference Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Grace plans a career in either social work, international business, or missions. She was sponsored by VFW Post 7514 and Auxiliary in Quitman, Arkansas.

Mei-Ying Croddy, a senior at James Campbell High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black & the \$1,000 Jane Young Memorial Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Mei-Ying plans a career in computer science and she was sponsored by VFW Post 12138 in Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

Caitlyn Waters, a sophomore at Weston High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Alabama & the \$1,000 Department of Georgia James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Memorial Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Caitlyn plans a career in the medical field and she was sponsored by VFW Post 4317 and Auxiliary in Jonesboro, Louisiana.

Zachary Anderson, a senior at Faith Lutheran High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Georgia R.D. "Bulldog" Smith, Jr. & the \$1,000 Department of Ohio Chester J. Koch Memorial Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Zachary plans a career in law and he was sponsored by VFW Post 12119 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Haley Butina, a senior at Tyrone Area High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary & the \$1,000 Stephen and Elsie Riordan Memorial Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Haley plans a career as a High School English Teacher and she was sponsored by VFW Post 4559 in Tyrone, Pennsylvania.

Abigail Wall, a senior at Calvary Christian School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Larry W. Rivers & the \$1,000 Department of Illinois Scott Post 4183 Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Abigail plans a career in middle school education and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9436 and Auxiliary in Pilot Mountain, North Carolina.

Samuel Needleman, a senior at Hopkinton High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 All American Post 284 & the \$1,000 Bernard J. Michels, Post 9610 and Auxiliary Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Sam was sponsored by VFW Post 11490 in Contoocook, New Hampshire.

Stephanie Tam, a junior at Tewksbury Memorial High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee & \$1,000 Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Stephanie plans a career in the STEM field, and she was sponsored by VFW Post 8164 in Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

Sawyer Getschman, a freshman at Stuttgart High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary & the \$1,000 Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarships (combined for \$2,000). Sawyer plans a career in politics and she was sponsored by VFW Post 10810 in Stuttgart, Germany (VFW Department of Europe).

Emma Freshcorn, a junior at Madison High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Arkansas and Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial Scholarship. Emma plans a career as a pediatric nurse practitioner and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1584 and Auxiliary in Adrian, Michigan.

Thomas Hosford, a senior at Boone Central High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Colorado and Auxiliary Scholarship. Thomas plans a career in law and politics and he was sponsored by VFW Post 736 and Auxiliary in Albion, Nebraska.

Olivia Anderson, a senior at Delmarva Christian High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Illinois and Auxiliary Scholarship. Olivia plans a career as an English as a second language teacher and missionary. She was sponsored by VFW Post 7447 and Auxiliary in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Meghan Hebert, a senior at Killingly High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Massachusetts Edward A. Nardi Scholarship. Meghan plans a career in journalism and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1523 and Auxiliary in Putnam, Connecticut.

Michael Cody, a homeschooled junior, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of Missouri and Auxiliary Scholarship. Michael plans a career in advertising and marketing and he was sponsored by VFW Post 6277 in Monterey, Tennessee.

Brandon Lee, a senior at Kearney R-I Senior High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of New Hampshire Scholarship. Brandon plans a career in either biomedical research or biotech development and he was sponsored by VFW Post 5717 and Auxiliary in Kearney, Missouri.

Courtney Michael, a senior at Campbell County High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship. Courtney plans a career in medicine and she was sponsored by VFW Post 7756 and Auxiliary in Gillette, Wyoming.

Alaha Nasari, a freshman at Hicksville High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Arthur W. Jones VFW Post 7564 and Auxiliary Scholarship. Alaha plans a career in the medical field and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3211 and Auxiliary in Hicksville, New York.

Ryan Arel, a senior at Colchester High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank and 2010-2011 Department Commanders Scholarship. Ryan plans a career in journalism and he was sponsored by VFW Post 782 and Auxiliary in Burlington, Vermont.

Adam DeYoung, a junior at Johnson High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Florida John M. "Jack" Carney Scholarship. Adam plans a career in medicine and he was sponsored by VFW Post 4676 and Auxiliary in Universal City, Texas.

Brooke Watkins, a junior at Hubbertville School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Scholarship. Brooke plans a career as a lawyer and she was sponsored by VFW Post 5406 in Fayette, Alabama.

Emma Scott, a senior at Gainesville High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Scholarship. Emma plans a career as an Orthopaedic Hand Surgeon and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2811 and Auxiliary in Gainesville, Florida.

Kaitlin Larson, a homeschooled senior, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Kansas and Auxiliary Robert R. Whipple Memorial Scholarship. Kaitlin plans a career in either elementary education or music and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3279 and Auxiliary in Abilene, Kansas.

Chyelle Dvorak, a homeschooled senior, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Maine Scholarship "to Remember the U.S.S. Maine". Chyelle plans a career in either architecture, engineering, or journalism and she was sponsored by VFW Post 425 and Auxiliary in Hopkins, Minnesota.

Kiley Eckstein, a senior at Highview Christian Academy, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi Toxie K. Stapleton Post 6473 Luther J. Cox Memorial Scholarship. Kiley plans a career in nursing and she was sponsored by VFW Post 1761 in Bangor, Maine.

Emily Gage, a sophomore at Colony High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi VFW and Auxiliary Bernard McClelland Memorial Scholarship. Emily plans a career as a Trauma Surgeon and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9365 and Auxiliary in Wasilla, Alaska.

Madison Ward, a senior at Zama American High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Nevada and Auxiliary Scholarship. Madison plans a career as a US Naval Officer and US Ambassador and she was sponsored by VFW Post 9612 in Camp Zama, Japan (VFW Department of Pacific Areas).

Faith Murrell, a homeschooled junior, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of New Jersey Howard E. Vander Clute Memorial Scholarship. Faith was sponsored by VFW Post 2839 and Auxiliary in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Shana Edwards, a sophomore at Prescott High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vicites Memorial Scholarship. Shana plans a career in biochemistry and she was sponsored by VFW Post 10227 and Auxiliary in Prescott Valley, Arizona.

Steven Marsocci, a junior at Bishop Hendricken High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Tennessee Cooper T. Holt - John Furgess Scholarship. Steven plans a career in acting and music, and he was sponsored by VFW Post 2812 and Auxiliary in Thornton, Rhode Island.

Faith Spino, a senior at Salida High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Scholarship. Faith plans a career in marketing communications and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3820 in Salida, Colorado.

Zoe Neal, a junior at Laurel Springs Online Academy, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Gilbert N. Nelson - Post 1326 and their Auxiliary - Bismarck, North Dakota Scholarship. Zoe plans a career as an attorney and she was sponsored by VFW Post 3679 and Auxiliary in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

John Overstreet, a junior at Ramey School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Mr. and Mrs. John Biedrzycki and the 2015 Homecoming Committee Scholarship. Jack plans a career as either a teacher or US Coast Guard Officer and he was sponsored by VFW Post 12064 in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Erica Roloff, a sophomore at Puyallup High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship. Erica plans a career as an Army Registered Nurse and she was sponsored by VFW Post 2224 and Auxiliary in Puyallup, Washington.

Mackyle Little, a senior at Culver High School, has been named a winner in the 2017 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Auxiliary Scholarship. Mack plans a career as a fireman and he was sponsored by VFW Post 12141 and Auxiliary in Madras, Oregon.