



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
Announces the 2024-2025 Voice of Democracy  
National Scholarship Winners**

First place winner Tri Vu, from Manchester, NH, represented the VFW Department of New Hampshire, and was awarded the \$35,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship.

Second place winner Caleb Smith, from Annapolis, MD, represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and was awarded the \$21,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship.

Third place winner Della Phillips, from Fargo, ND, represented the VFW Department of North Dakota, and was awarded the \$15,000 VFW Scholarship.

Fourth place winner Ben Hourdequin, from Hanover, NH, represented the VFW Department of Vermont, and was awarded the \$9,500 LeRoy Moorhead Memorial and Troy and Sandy Rothbart Memorial Scholarship (NY).

Fifth place winner Benjamin Ferster, from Harrisburg, PA, represented the VFW Department of Pennsylvania, and was awarded the \$5,000 Floyd County VFW Post 3281, New Albany Indiana Scholarship.

Sixth place winner Makoa Arnett-Cook, from Honolulu, HI, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Dept. of Delaware Scholarship.

Seventh place winner Ainge Leah Ford, from Salem, UT, represented the VFW Department of Utah, and was awarded the \$4,000 Department of Indiana and Auxiliary Scholarship & Department of New Jersey Howard E. Vander Clute Scholarship (combined).

Eighth place winner Amelia Borawski, from Reading, MA, represented the VFW Department of Massachusetts, and was awarded the \$4,000 Department of Minnesota William F. Halsey Memorial.

Ninth place winner Ashlyn Dalton, from Baker City, OR, represented the VFW Department of Oregon, and was awarded the \$3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G. Salmon Memorial Scholarship.

10th place winner Evelyn Ernst, from Glenham, SD, represented the VFW Department of South Dakota, and was awarded the \$3,500 Class 122 Commanders and Department of Illinois and Auxiliary Scholarship (Combined).

Michael McMahan, from Topton, NC, represented the VFW Department of North Carolina, and was awarded the \$3,000 Joseph and Irene Hansen Memorial Scholarship (MD).

Shanti Isaac, from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, represented the Unaffiliated VFW Posts, and was awarded the \$3,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship (CA) and Stephen and Elsie Riordan Memorial Scholarship (NJ).

Jackson Settle, from Oldsmar, FL, represented the VFW Department of Florida, and was awarded the \$2,500 Daniel Sean Wallace Memorial Scholarships (NJ).

Prishu Gaire, from Bear, DE, represented the VFW Department of Delaware, and was awarded the \$2,500 Past Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, Past National President Jane Reape and Class of 2022-2023 Scholarship (Combined).

Michael Hu, from San Jose, CA, represented the VFW Department of California, and was awarded the \$2,500 Department of New Hampshire Scholarship and the South Carolina Auxiliary, Jan Owen's Past National President Scholarship (combined).

Meredith Maxwell, from Ansbach, Germany, represented the VFW Department of Europe, and was awarded the \$2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship (MD).

Julianne Davis, from Rainsville, AL, represented the VFW Department of Alabama, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Arizona and Auxiliary Harry A. Kosht Memorial Scholarship.

Rebecca Davis, from Acworth, GA, represented the VFW Department of Georgia, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of California and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Kaydence Monti, from Buckhamon, WV, represented the VFW Department of West Virginia, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Illinois VFW – Ray Soden/George Cramer Scholarship.

Katelyn Wright, from Kearney, MO, represented the VFW Department of Missouri, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Wisconsin Wally Hogan/Tom Tradewell Commanders-in-Chief Scholarship.

Ashlyn Rogers, from Luling, LA, represented the VFW Department of Louisiana, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Kentucky and Auxiliary Brian Duffy and Marion Watson Scholarship.

Elijah Sauer, from Wapato, WA, represented the VFW Department of Washington, and was awarded the \$2,000 Francis J. Tallman Memorial Scholarship & Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship (NY) (combined).

Noah Lorenz, from Littleton, CO, represented the VFW Department of Colorado, and was awarded the \$2,000 Walter and Doris Marshall Memorial Scholarship (MT) & Southern Conference Scholarship (combined).

Joy Trief, from Randolph, NJ, represented the VFW Department of New Jersey, and was awarded the \$2,000 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black Scholarship (NC) & Jane Young Memorial Scholarship (OH) (combined).

Chris Qian, from Richmond, VA, represented the VFW Department of Virginia, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Alabama Scholarship & Department of Georgia James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Memorial Scholarship (combined).

Catelyn Stearman, from Gravette, AR, represented the VFW Department of Arkansas, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Georgia R.D. "Bulldog" Smith, Jr. Scholarship & Department of Ohio Chester J. Koch Memorial Scholarship (combined).

Samuel Dusek, from Hagerston, IN, represented the VFW Department of Indiana, and was awarded the \$2,000 Larry W. Rivers Scholarship (LA) & Department of Illinois Scott Post 4183 Scholarship (combined).

Grace Rochelle, from Newport, RI, represented the VFW Department of Rhode Island, and was awarded the \$2,000 All American Post 284 Scholarship (D.C.) & Bernard J. Michels, Post 9610 and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Bailey Hodge, from Benton, KY, represented the VFW Department of Kentucky, and was awarded the \$2,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee Scholarship & Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarship (MD) (combined).

Joseph Martinez, from Chicago, IL, represented the VFW Department of Illinois, and was awarded the \$2,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary Scholarship (MN) & Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Antoine Taylor, from Rigby, ID, represented the VFW Department of Idaho, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Nolan Howe, from Easton, CT, represented the VFW Department of Connecticut, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Missouri and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Hailey Pangelinan, from Yigo, Guam, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Daisy Sweatt, from Peru, ME, represented the VFW Department of Maine, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Massachusetts Edward A. Nardi Scholarship.

Lydia Bal, from Toledo, OH, represented the VFW Department of Ohio, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Colorado and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Ashton Jenzen, from Waseca, MN, represented the VFW Department of Minnesota, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Arkansas and Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial Scholarship.

Joseph Burke, from Walden, NY, represented the VFW Department of New York, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Laszlo Baumgardner, from Bozeman, MT, represented the VFW Department of Montana, and was awarded the \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Auxiliary Scholarship (ND).

Madison Gompert, from Albion, NE, represented the VFW Department of Nebraska, and was awarded the \$1,000 Arthur W. Jones VFW Post 7564 and Auxiliary Scholarship (ND).

Emmett Juergens, from Carroll, IA, represented the VFW Department of Iowa, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vicites Memorial Scholarship.

Jacey Clark, from Guernsey, WY, represented the VFW Department of Wyoming, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Maine Scholarship "to Remember the U.S.S. Maine".

Jose Garcia, from Long Beach, MS, represented the VFW Department of Mississippi, and was awarded the \$1,000 Gilbert N. Nelson - Post 1326 and their Auxiliary - Bismarck, North Dakota Scholarship.

Lydia Kent, from Edmond, OK, represented the VFW Department of Oklahoma, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Kansas and Auxiliary Robert R. Whipple Memorial Scholarship.

Marissa Zonnebelt, from North Muskegon, MI, represented the VFW Department of Michigan, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Nevada and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Maria Garcia, from Albuquerque, NM, represented the VFW Department of New Mexico, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Florida John M. "Jack" Carney Scholarship.

Connor Commerford, from Oxford, KS, represented the VFW Department of Kansas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Addison Taylor, from Burnet, TX, represented the VFW Department of Texas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Madison Plante, from Star Valley, AZ, represented the VFW Department of Arizona, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi VFW and Auxiliary Bernard McClelland Memorial Scholarship.

Gwendolyn Cressman, from Las Vegas, NV, represented the VFW Department of Nevada, and was awarded the \$1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship (CA).

Kaylee Hannon, from Inman, SC, represented the VFW Department of South Carolina, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Tennessee Cooper T. Holt - John Furgess Scholarship.

Addysen Peery, from Antioch, TN, represented the VFW Department of Tennessee, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi Toxie K. Stapleton Post 6473 Luther J. Cox Memorial Scholarship.

Andrew Gallt, from Glennallen, AK, represented the VFW Department of Alaska, and was awarded the \$1,000 Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank and 2010-2011 Department Commanders Scholarship (CA).

Grace Kreklow, from Wauwatosa, WI, represented the VFW Department of Wisconsin, and was awarded the \$1,000 Mr. and Mrs. John Biedrzycki and the 2015 Homecoming Committee Scholarship (PA).