



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Announces the 2023-2024 Voice of Democracy
National Scholarship Winners**

First place winner Sophia Lin, from Scottsdale, Arizona, represented the VFW Department of Arizona, and was awarded the \$35,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship.

Second place winner Ella Catchpole, from Casper, Wyoming, represented the VFW Department of Wyoming, and was awarded the \$21,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship.

Third place winner Lydia Prout, from Burtnum, Minnesota, represented the VFW Department of Minnesota, and was awarded the \$15,000 VFW Scholarship.

Fourth place winner Joshua Haines, from Davenport, Florida, represented the VFW Department of Florida, and was awarded the \$8,000 LeRoy Moorhead Memorial and Troy and Sandy Rothbart Memorial Scholarship (NY).

Fifth place winner Benjamin Offutt, from Castle Rock, Washington, represented the VFW Department of Washington, and was awarded the \$5,000 Floyd County VFW Post 3281, New Albany Indiana Scholarship.

Sixth place winner Barrett Love, from Woodward, Oklahoma, represented the VFW Department of Oklahoma, and was awarded the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Dept. of Delaware Scholarship.

Seventh place winner Annamarie Schuermann, from Colcord, Oklahoma, represented the VFW Department of Arkansas, 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 Omar Reyes, from Houston, Texas, represented the VFW Department of Texas, and was awarded the \$4,000 Department of Minnesota William F. Halsey Memorial.

Ninth place winner Sarah Burrows, from Warfordsburg, Pennsylvania, represented the VFW Department of Pennsylvania, and was awarded the \$3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G. Salmon Memorial Scholarship.

10th place winner Alisa Zhao, from Mason, Ohio, represented the VFW Department of Ohio, and was awarded the \$3,500 Class 122 Commanders and Department of Illinois and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Hope Wright, from Madras, Oregon, represented the VFW Department of Oregon, and was awarded the \$3,000 Joseph and Irene Hansen Memorial Scholarship (MD).

Abigail Jung, from Smithtown, New York, represented the VFW Department of New York, and was awarded the \$2,500 Daniel Sean Wallace Memorial Scholarships (NJ).

Katelyn Wright, from Kearney, Missouri, represented the VFW Department of Missouri, and was awarded the \$2,500 Past Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, Past National President Jane Reape and Class of 2022-2023 Scholarship (combined).

Riley Malone, from Brimfield, Illinois, represented the VFW Department of Illinois, and was awarded the \$2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship (CA).

Eddy Holcomb, from Portland, Michigan, represented the VFW Department of Michigan, and was awarded the \$2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship (MD).

David Murphy, from Scituate, Massachusetts, represented the VFW Department of Massachusetts, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Arizona and Auxiliary Harry A. Kosht Memorial Scholarship.

Gabriella Mason, from Aztec, New Mexico, represented the VFW Department of New Mexico, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of California and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Avery Padgett, from Bountville, Tennessee, represented the VFW Department of Tennessee, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Illinois VFW – Ray Soden/George Cramer Scholarship.

Lillian Payne, from Ranson, Kansas, represented the VFW Department of Kansas, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Wisconsin Wally Hogan/Tom Tradewell Commanders-in-Chief Scholarship.

Joseph Dachnowicz, from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, represented the VFW Department of New Jersey, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Kentucky and Auxiliary Brian Duffy and Marion Watson Scholarship.

Della Phillips, from Fargo, North Dakota, represented the VFW Department of North Dakota, and was awarded the \$2,000 Francis J. Tallman Memorial Scholarship & Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship (NY) (combined).

Ronja Wagner, from Fairbanks, Alaska, represented the VFW Department of Alaska, and was awarded the \$2,000 Walter and Doris Marshall Memorial Scholarship (MT) & Southern Conference Scholarship (combined).

Abailgeal Emery, from Westerly, Rhode Island, represented the VFW Department of Rhode Island, and was awarded the \$2,000 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black Scholarship (NC) & Jane Young Memorial Scholarship (OH) (combined).

Asia Anderson, from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, represented the VFW Department of Mississippi, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Alabama Scholarship & Department of Georgia James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Memorial Scholarship (combined).

Andrew Miller, from Mauertown, Virginia, represented the VFW Department of Virginia, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Georgia R.D. "Bulldog" Smith, Jr. Scholarship & Department of Ohio Chester J. Koch Memorial Scholarship (combined).

Meredith Maxwell, from Erlangen, Germany, represented the VFW Department of Europe, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Isabel Seeley, from Polson, Montana, represented the VFW Department of Montana, and was awarded the \$2,000 Larry W. Rivers Scholarship (LA) & Department of Illinois Scott Post 4183 Scholarship (combined).

Anna Seavy, from Standish, Maine, represented the VFW Department of Maine, and was awarded the \$2,000 All American Post 284 Scholarship (D.C.) & Bernard J. Michels, Post 9610 and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Maureen Grace York, from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, represented the VFW Department of Alabama, and was awarded the \$2,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee Scholarship & Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarship (MD) (combined).

Gwendolen Troy, from Angeles City, Philippines, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, and was awarded the \$2,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary Scholarship (MN) & Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Eliana Cecil, from Mackay, Idaho, represented the VFW Department of Idaho, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Hampshire Scholarship.

Thatcher Debowski, from New Boston, New Hampshire, represented the VFW Department of New Hampshire, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Missouri and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Justin Buettner, from Iowa City, Iowa, represented the VFW Department of Iowa, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Porter Tiedt, from Burlington, Wisconsin, represented the VFW Department of Wisconsin, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Massachusetts Edward A. Nardi Scholarship.

Hagan Williams, from Norwich, Vermont, represented the VFW Department of Vermont, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Colorado and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Thomas Herman, from Louisville, Kentucky, represented the VFW Department of Kentucky, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Arkansas and Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial Scholarship.

Wyatt Wunker, from San Juan, Puerto Rico, represented VFW Unaffiliated Posts, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Ethan Yang, from Honolulu, Hawaii, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Auxiliary Scholarship (ND).

Baileigh Borna, from Woodstock, Georgia, represented the VFW Department of Georgia, and was awarded the \$1,000 Arthur W. Jones VFW Post 7564 and Auxiliary Scholarship (ND).

Sudipa Chowdhury, from Newark, Delaware, represented the VFW Department of Delaware, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vicites Memorial Scholarship.

Luke Eisenmann, from Leigh, Nebraska, represented the VFW Department of Nebraska, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Maine Scholarship "to Remember the U.S.S. Maine".

Angelica Thompson, from Fairmont, West Virginia, represented the VFW Department of West Virginia, and was awarded the \$1,000 Gilbert N. Nelson - Post 1326 and their Auxiliary - Bismarck, North Dakota Scholarship.

Saida Skeen, from Saint George, Utah, represented the VFW Department of Utah, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Kansas and Auxiliary Robert R. Whipple Memorial Scholarship.

Amrithaa Balachandran, from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, represented the VFW Department of South Carolina, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Nevada and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Laura Huelskamp, from Grantsville, Maryland, represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Florida John M. "Jack" Carney Scholarship.

Josephine Ciuffi, from Slidell, Louisiana, represented the VFW Department of Louisiana, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Maxwell Brown, from Griswold, Connecticut, represented the VFW Department of Connecticut, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Robert Balkcom, from Fishers, Indiana, represented the VFW Department of Indiana, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi VFW and Auxiliary Bernard McClelland Memorial Scholarship.

Aubrey Denton, from Summerfield, North Carolina, represented the VFW Department of North Carolina, and was awarded the \$1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship (CA).

Eliza Bourne, from San Juan Capistrano, California, represented the VFW Department of California, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Tennessee Cooper T. Holt - John Furgess Scholarship.

Christina Robinson, from Fallon, Nevada, represented the VFW Department of Nevada, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi Toxie K. Stapleton Post 6473 Luther J. Cox Memorial Scholarship.

Lexi Brandt, from Custer, South Dakota, represented the VFW Department of South Dakota, and was awarded the \$1,000 Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank and 2010-2011 Department Commanders Scholarship (CA).

Noah Lorenz, from LITTLETON, Colorado, represented the VFW Department of Colorado, and was awarded the \$1,000 Mr. and Mrs. John Biedrzycki and the 2015 Homecoming Committee Scholarship (PA).

Baylee Olazacki, from East Hampton, Connecticut, represented VFW National Membership-at-Large, and was awarded the \$1,000 Stephen and Elsie Riordan Memorial Scholarship (NJ).