



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VFW Department of Rhode Island Announces Youth Scholarship Program Winners

VFW and Auxiliary membership recognize winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship programs

PROVIDENCE, RI (January 12, 2022) – The Rhode Island Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021-2022 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship program.

The VFW's Voice of Democracy patriotic audio essay contest was open to students in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. The 2021-2022 contest theme was "America: where do we go from here?" The Department of Rhode Island's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were Megan Chevalier, 11th grade, Portsmouth High School, Portsmouth, RI; Mia Holroyd, 12th grade, Smithfield High School, Smithfield, RI; and Sophia Selva, 11th Grade, North Kingstown High school, North Kingstown, RI. Megan Chevalier will compete nationally for a \$30,000 award. All winners will receive a cash prize, VFW Voice of Democracy certificate and medal, and a Gubernatorial citation from Governor Daniel McKee.

The VFW's Patriot's Pen patriotic essay writing contest was open to students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The 2021-2022 contest theme was "How can I be a good American?" The Department of Rhode Island's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were Harrison Fallon, 7th Grade, Winman Middle School, Warwick, RI; Alexa Bucu, 6th Grade, Birchwood Middle School, north Providence, RI; and Celina Medeiros, 6th Grade, Tiverton Middle School, Tiverton, RI. Harrison Fallon will compete nationally for a \$5,000 award. All winners will receive a cash prize, VFW Patriot's Pen certificate and medal, and a Gubernatorial citation from Governor Daniel McKee.

About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans' organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veteran service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information, or to join, visit our website at vfw.org.

About VFWRI: The Rhode Island Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was chartered on November 30, 1920, and has been serving veterans, military families, and the community within Rhode Island for over 100 years. The Department consists of over 2,400 VFW and Auxiliary members located in 24 Posts throughout Rhode Island. The Department is led by State Commander Dora T. Vasquez-Hellner who was elected to office at the State Convention in June 2021. For more information, or to join, please contact the State Adjutant at (401) 574-8161 or adj@vfwri.org.

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