



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
Announces the 2020-21 Patriot's Pen  
National Award Winners**

First place winner Wyatt Perkins, from Maryville, ND, represented the VFW Department of North Dakota, and was awarded the \$5,000 North End Post 144, Paul A. Spera Past Commander-in-Chief Award.

Second place winner Bennett Gordon, from Whitewood, SD, represented the VFW Department of South Dakota, and was awarded the \$4,000 VFW Award.

Third place winner Sydnie Morgan, from Estacada, OR, represented the VFW Department of Oregon, and was awarded the \$3,500 VFW Award.

Fourth place winner Julianna Stacey, from Long Prairie, MN, represented the VFW Department of Minnesota, and was awarded the \$2,750 Alaine Benson Memorial Award.

Fifth place winner Abigail Whittaker, from Sabetha, KS, represented the VFW Department of Kansas, and was awarded the \$2,500 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary (Dept. of Delaware) Award.

Sixth place winner Abby Yeske, from Helena, MT, represented the VFW Department of Montana, and was awarded the \$2,000 Clyde A. Lewis Department of New York and Auxiliary Award.

Seventh place winner Anna Koch, from Cedar Knolls, NJ, represented the VFW Department of New Jersey, and was awarded the \$1,750 Dept. of New Hampshire George J. Maxfield Post 1772 and Auxiliary John A. Knapper Memorial Award.

Eighth place winner Saanvi Ram, from Dubuque, IA, represented the VFW Department of Iowa, and was awarded the \$1,500 John F. Gwizdak Award.

Ninth place winner Justine Chan, from Fort Lee, VA, represented the VFW Department of Virginia, and was awarded the \$1,500 VFW and James R. and Pat Mueller Award.

10th place winner Alexis Bordas, from Wheeling, WV, represented the VFW Department of West Virginia, and was awarded the \$1,500 VFW Award.

Madelyn Thomas, from Green River, WY, represented the VFW Department of Wyoming, and was awarded the \$1,250 VFW Award.

Madeline Keepers, from Massena, NY, represented the VFW Department of New York, and was awarded the \$1,250 Grace Minnix Memorial Award.

Trinity Lucas, from Longwood, FL, represented the VFW Department of Florida, and was awarded the \$1,000 Golden Valley VFW Post 7051 (Golden Valley, MN) Award.

Vibhasri Yama, from West Dundee, IL, represented the VFW Department of Illinois, and was awarded the \$1,000 Louis W. Oppenheim VFW Post 1019 Award.

Audrey Wirig, from Henderson, NV, represented the VFW Department of Nevada, and was awarded the \$1,000 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Colorado Award.

Madison Spriggs, from Glens Ferry, ID, represented the VFW Department of Idaho, and was awarded the \$1,000 John V. Daniels Jr. Post 2813 and Auxiliary (Department of New York) Award and John E. "Jack" Bales Post 10581 (Department of Colorado) Award.

Diya Menon, from Cary, NC, represented the VFW Department of North Carolina, and was awarded the \$1,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 (Department of Maryland) Award and Department of Utah Award (combined).

Morgan Hughs, from Damascus, AR, represented the VFW Department of Arkansas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Michigan Award and Warren A. Tressler Memorial (Department of Minnesota) Award (combined).

Grace Yurko, from Reislertown, MD, represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Nevada Award & Chaplain Lyman Rollins Post 2005, Marblehead, Massachusetts Award (combined).

Thomas Lynch, from Honolulu, HI, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$1,000 Charlie H. Adamson, Jr. Memorial Award and Joseph A. Scerra Memorial (Department of Massachusetts) Award (combined).

Katherine Anselmo, from Ludlow, MA, represented the VFW Department of Massachusetts, and was awarded the \$1,000 James L. Keeley Award and Department of Ohio Award (combined).

Rebecca Dernlan, from Daphne, AL, represented the VFW Department of Alabama, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of South Dakota VFW and Auxiliary Award & Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Award (combined).

Sophia Higley, from Miami, OK, represented the VFW Department of Oklahoma, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Georgia and Auxiliary Award.

Alivia Arrowood, from Blountville, TN, represented the VFW Department of Tennessee, and was awarded the \$750 Department of Kansas VFW and Auxiliary Award and Department of Iowa Award (combined).

Olivia Spady, from Imperial, NE, represented the VFW Department of Nebraska, and was awarded the \$750 VFW Department of Washington and Auxiliary Eric G. Sandstrom Memorial Award.

Eldon Hunt, from Newcastle, ME, represented the VFW Department of Maine, and was awarded the \$500 Glenn D. Raney Memorial Award (LA) Award.

Christopher Sarver, from Fishers, IN, represented the VFW Department of Indiana, and was awarded the \$500 Mary Margaret Romano Memorial (Department of Connecticut) Award.

Eavie Heffernan, from Oshkosh, WI, represented the VFW Department of Wisconsin, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Southern Conference Award.

Brennan Macklin, from Smyrna, DE, represented the VFW Department of Delaware, and was awarded the \$500 Edward S. Banas, Sr. Award.

Lauryn Uyemura, from Kersey, CO, represented the VFW Department of Colorado, and was awarded the \$500 Deering Memorial Post 6859, Portland, Maine Award.

Leif Jaworski, from Homer, AK, represented the VFW Department of Alaska, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Tennessee John Furgess Award.

Abigail Walters, from Prescott Valley, AZ, represented the VFW Department of Arizona, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Missouri VFW and Auxiliary Award.

Anthony Rentas, from Watertown, CT, represented the VFW Department of Connecticut, and was awarded the \$500 The Robin V. Fell Memorial Award.

Katie Kunkie, from Boerne, TX, represented the VFW Department of Texas, and was awarded the \$500 Deering Memorial Post 6859, Auxiliary Portland Maine Award.

Cooper Hapner, from Fulton, MO, represented VFW Department Missouri, and was awarded the \$500 Department of South Carolina and Auxiliary Award.

Connor Forrester, from Erlanger, KY, represented the VFW Department of Kentucky, and was awarded the \$500 Sanford-Springvale Memorial VFW Post 9935 Award.

Emma Martin, from Tiverton, RI, represented the VFW Department of Rhode Island, and was awarded the \$500 Department of California Award.

Eowyn Thompson, from Meshoppen, PA, represented the VFW Department of Pennsylvania, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Arkansas, "Dewayne Fletcher Memorial" Award.

Elias Trujillo, from Santa Fe, NM, represented the VFW Department of New Mexico, and was awarded the \$500 Frederick H. Smalley Department of New Mexico Award.

Cayden Edwards, from Mt. Pleasant, SC, represented the VFW Department of South Carolina, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Department of Pacific Areas Award.

John Anand, from Akron, OH, represented the VFW Department of Ohio, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Department of New Jersey Award.

Brayden Hilton, from Cathlamet, WA, represented the VFW Department of Washington, and was awarded the \$500 Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio Charities Award.

Christian Woo, from Orinda, CA, represented the VFW Department of California, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Award.

Charlotte Gilstrap, from Ansbach, Germany, represented the VFW Department of Europe, and was awarded the \$500 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Mississippi and Auxiliary Award.

Danyon Thomas, from Covington, LA, represented the VFW Department of Louisiana, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Award.

Chloe Pan, from Freeland, MI, represented the VFW Department of Michigan, and was awarded the \$500 Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki and 2015-2016 Department Commanders Award.

Gavin Christensen, from Draper, UT, represented the VFW Department of Utah, and was awarded the \$500 National President Francisca Guilford and 2015-2016 Auxiliaries Award.

Ty Ramase, from Kosciusko, MS, represented the VFW Department of Mississippi, and was awarded the \$500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Award.

Wesley Vickers, from Toccoa, GA, represented the VFW Department of Georgia, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Department of Nevada Award.

Benjamin Hourdequin, from Hanover, NH, represented the VFW Department of Vermont, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Pennsylvania 2015-16 "LDRSHIP" Award.

Hoyoung Kang, from Barrigada, Guam, represented the VFW Department of Pacific, and was awarded the \$500 Peter J. Mascetti Jr. & Department of Europe Award.

Mia Westphal, from Somersworth, NH, represented the VFW Department of New Hampshire, and was awarded the \$500 VFW and Auxiliary members of Southern Charles County Memorial Post 10081, Dept. of Maryland Award.