



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Announces the 2025-2026 Voice of Democracy
National Scholarship Winners**

First place winner Olivia Drewniak, from Woolwich, Maine, represented the VFW Department of Maine, and was awarded the \$35,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship.

Second place winner Kylie Saltzman, from Cape May, New Jersey, represented the VFW Department of New Jersey, and was awarded the \$21,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship.

Third place winner Abigail Smith, from Bloomington, Indiana, represented the VFW Department of Indiana, and was awarded the \$15,000 VFW Scholarship.

Fourth place winner Zoe Szymanski, from Lander, Wyoming, represented the VFW Department of Wyoming, and was awarded the \$9,500 LeRoy Moorhead Memorial and Troy and Sandy Rothbart Memorial Scholarship (NY).

Fifth place winner Kelsey Persons, from Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, represented the VFW Department of Pennsylvania, and was awarded the \$5,000 Floyd County VFW Post 3281, New Albany Indiana Scholarship.

Sixth place winner Madeline Collins, from Shiner, Texas, represented the VFW Department of Texas, and was awarded the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Dept. of Delaware Scholarship.

Seventh place winner Jackson Shrum, from Blue Springs, Missouri, represented the VFW Department of Missouri, and was awarded the \$4,000 Department of Indiana and Auxiliary Scholarship & Department of New Jersey Howard E. Vander Clute Memorial Scholarship (combined).

Eighth place winner Jonah Sioson, from Henderson, Nevada, represented the VFW Department of Nevada, and was awarded the \$4,000 Department of Minnesota William F. Halsey Memorial.

Ninth place winner Olivia Harriman, from Fitchburg, Massachusetts, represented the VFW Department of Massachusetts, and was awarded the \$3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G. Salmon Memorial Scholarship.

Tenth place winner Catelyn Stearman, from Gravette, Arkansas, represented the VFW Department of Arkansas, and was awarded the \$3,500 Class 122 Commanders and Department of Illinois and Auxiliary Scholarship (Combined).

Morgan Davis, from Fort Thomas, Kentucky, represented the VFW Department of Kentucky, and was awarded the \$3,000 Joseph and Irene Hansen Memorial Scholarship (MD).

Lexi Lai, from Lake Oswego, Oregon, represented the VFW Department of Oregon, and was awarded the \$3,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship (CA) and Stephen and Elsie Riordan Memorial Scholarship (NJ) combined.

Marjorie Leary, from Little Compton, Rhode Island, represented the VFW Department of Rhode Island, and was awarded the \$3,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship (MD) and the Mr. and Mrs. John Biedrzycki and the 2015 Homecoming Committee Scholarship (combined).

Kaitlyn Roberts, from Hamilton, Ohio, represented the VFW Department of Ohio, and was awarded the \$3,000 Department of Arizona and Auxiliary Harry A. Kosht Memorial Scholarship and the VFW Department of Oregon Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Reilly Dukes, from Charleston, South Carolina, represented the VFW Department of South Carolina, and was awarded the \$2,500 Daniel Sean Wallace Memorial Scholarships (NJ).

Ramsey Grimes, from Millbrook, Alabama, represented the VFW Department of Alabama, and was awarded the \$2,500 Past Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, Past National President Jane Reape and Class of 2022-2023 Scholarship (Combined).

Irene Pan, from Fullerton, California, 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).

Thanvi Voruganti, from Chandler, Arizona, represented the VFW Department of Arizona, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of California and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Améah Horman, from Salt Lake City, Utah, represented the VFW Department of Utah, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Illinois VFW – Ray Soden/George Cramer Scholarship.

Elijah Taylor, from Honolulu, Hawaii, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Wisconsin Wally Hogan/Tom Tradewell Commanders-in-Chief Scholarship.

Katelyn Rosado, from Pompano Beach, Florida, represented the VFW Department of Florida, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Kentucky and Auxiliary Brian Duffy and Marion Watson Scholarship.

Kingston Ryals, from Vidalia, Georgia, represented the VFW Department of Georgia, and was awarded the \$2,000 Francis J. Tallman Memorial Scholarship & Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship (NY) (combined).

Alitheia West, from Chesapeake, Virginia, represented the VFW Department of Virginia, and was awarded the \$2,000 Walter and Doris Marshall Memorial Scholarship (MT) & Southern Conference Scholarship (combined).

Charlotte Hourdequin, from Hanover, New Hampshire, represented the VFW Department of Vermont, and was awarded the \$2,000 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black Scholarship (NC) & Jane Young Memorial Scholarship (OH) (combined).

Cassidy Burlile, from New Plymouth, Idaho, represented the VFW Department of Idaho, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Alabama Scholarship & Department of Georgia James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Memorial Scholarship (combined).

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

Nathan Gaddis, from Dolores, Colorado, represented the VFW Department of Colorado, and was awarded the \$2,000 Larry W. Rivers Scholarship (LA) & Department of Illinois Scott Post 4183 Scholarship (combined).

Emily Spatto, from Remsen, New York, represented the VFW Department of New York, and was awarded the \$2,000 All American Post 284 Scholarship (D.C.) & Bernard J. Michels, Post 9610 and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Joanie McCormack, from Remsen, North Dakota, represented the VFW Department of North Dakota, and was awarded the \$2,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee Scholarship & Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarship (MD) (combined).

Max Yurko, from Reisterstown, Maryland, represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and was awarded the \$2,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary Scholarship (MN) & Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Maya Todd, from Avoca, Iowa, represented the VFW Department of Iowa, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Levi Darnell, from Clare, Michigan, represented the VFW Department of Michigan, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Missouri and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Aileen Nguyen, from Lewisburg, Tennessee, represented the VFW Department of Tennessee, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Sarena Doot, from Torrington, Connecticut, represented the VFW Department of Connecticut, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Massachusetts Edward A. Nardi Scholarship.

Noel Fernandez, from Lacey, Washington, represented the VFW Department of Washington, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Colorado and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Audrey Kerr, from Bridgeport, West Virginia, represented the VFW Department of West Virginia, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Arkansas and Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial Scholarship.

Maggie Huryta, from Ravenna, Nebraska, represented the VFW Department of Nebraska, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Grant Cumming, from RAF Alconbury, England, represented the VFW Department of Europe, and was awarded the \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Auxiliary Scholarship (ND).

Megan Baumgardner, from Bozeman, Montana, represented the VFW Department of Montana, and was awarded the \$1,000 Arthur W. Jones VFW Post 7564 and Auxiliary Scholarship (ND).

Sanjay Dagam, from Brookfield, Wisconsin, represented the VFW Department of Wisconsin, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vicites Memorial Scholarship.

Endelyn Whitton, from Fairbanks, Alaska, represented the VFW Department of Alaska, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Maine Scholarship "to Remember the U.S.S. Maine".

London McKenzie, from Raymond, Mississippi, represented the VFW Department of Mississippi, and was awarded the \$1,000 Gilbert N. Nelson - Post 1326 and their Auxiliary - Bismarck, North Dakota Scholarship.

Dagen Mutchler, from Whitewood, South Dakota, represented the VFW Department of South Dakota, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Kansas and Auxiliary Robert R. Whipple Memorial Scholarship.

Preston Yancey, from Ford, Kansas, represented the VFW Department of Kansas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Nevada and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Victoria Negrete, from Midlothian, Illinois, represented the VFW Department of Illinois, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Florida John M. "Jack" Carney Scholarship.

Aidan Maness, from Winston Salem, North Carolina, represented the VFW Department of North Carolina, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Belldandy Lamb, from Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Trisha Pangilinan, from Rustin, Louisiana, represented the VFW Department of Louisiana, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi VFW and Auxiliary Bernard McClelland Memorial Scholarship.

Prishu Gaire, from Bear, Delaware, represented the VFW Department of Delaware, and was awarded the \$1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship (CA).

Chase Dyer, from Roswell, New Mexico, represented the VFW Department of New Mexico, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Tennessee Cooper T. Holt - John Furgess Scholarship.

Ehimen Umobuarie, from Clinton, Oklahoma, represented the VFW Department of Oklahoma, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi Toxie K. Stapleton Post 6473 Luther J. Cox Memorial Scholarship.

Luna Loch, from Walpole, New Hampshire, represented the VFW Department of New Hampshire, and was awarded the \$1,000 Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank and 2010-2011 Department Commanders Scholarship (CA).