



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Announces the 2018-19 Patriot's Pen National Award Winners

First-place winner Daniel Rodriguez, from Nogales, Ariz., represented the VFW Department of Arizona, and was awarded the \$5,000 North End Post 144, Paul A. Spera Past Commander-in-Chief Award.

Second-place winner Miles McAlister, from Collinsville, Miss., represented the VFW Department of Mississippi, and was awarded the \$4,000 VFW Award.

Third-place winner Amanda Collingham, from Mount Airy, Md., represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and was awarded the \$3,500 VFW Award.

Fourth-place winner Lucia Williams, from Los Angeles, Calif., represented the VFW Department of California, and was awarded the \$2,750 Alaine Benson Memorial Award.

Fifth-place winner Lily Harris, from Green River, Wyo., represented the VFW Department of Wyoming, and was awarded the \$2,500 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary (Dept. of Delaware) Award.

Sixth-place winner Luke Fox, from Boerne, Texas, represented the VFW Department of Texas, and was awarded the \$2,000 Clyde A. Lewis Department of New York and Auxiliary Award.

Seventh-place winner Joeho Lee, from Rexford, N.Y., represented the VFW Department of New York, 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 Louise Garcia Grimaldo, from Orofino, Idaho, represented the VFW Department of Idaho, and was awarded the \$1,500 John F. Gwizdak Award.

Ninth-place winner Chase Shockley, from Carthage, Mo., represented the VFW Department of Missouri, and was awarded the \$1,500 VFW and James R. and Pat Mueller Award.

Tenth-place winner Addison Perkins, from South Boston, Mass., represented the VFW Department of Massachusetts, and was awarded the \$1,500 VFW Award.

Carolyn Lafferty, from Saunderstown, R.I., represented the VFW Department of Rhode Island, and was awarded the \$1,250 VFW Award.

Barri Shealy, from Camden, S.C., represented the VFW Department of South Carolina, and was awarded the \$1,250 Grace Minnix Memorial Award.

Maggie Berleth, from Bedford, N.H., represented the VFW Department of New Hampshire, and was awarded the \$1,000 Golden Valley VFW Post 7051 (Golden Valley, Minnesota) Award.

Iain McMurray, from Logandale, Nev., represented the VFW Department of Nevada, and was awarded the \$1,000 Louis W. Oppenheim VFW Post #1019 Award.

Amy Adams, from Poncha Springs, Colo., represented the VFW Department of Colorado, and was awarded the \$1,000 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Colorado Award.

Cara Argila, from Scotch Plains, N.J., represented the VFW Department of New Jersey, and was awarded the \$1,000 John V. Daniel's Jr. Post 2813 and Auxiliary (Dept. of New York) Award & John E. (Jack) Bales Post 10581 (Dept. of Colorado) Award (combined).

Brennan Muhich, from Eveleth, Minn., represented the VFW Department of Minnesota, and was awarded the \$1,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 (Dept. of Maryland) Award & Department of Utah Award (combined).

Allie Autry, from Lexington, Tenn., represented the VFW Department of Tennessee, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Michigan Award & Warren A. Tressler Memorial (Dept. of Minnesota) Award (combined).

Malachi Feil, from Wichita, Kan., represented the VFW Department of Kansas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Nevada Award & Chaplain Lyman Rollins Post 2005, Marblehead, Massachusetts Award (combined).

Calister Grimsley, from Spearfish, S.D., represented the VFW Department of South Dakota, and was awarded the \$1,000 Charlie H. Adamson, Jr. Memorial Award & Joseph A. Scerra Memorial (Dept. of Massachusetts) Award (combined).

Zach Sexton, from Northwood, Ohio, represented the VFW Department of Ohio, and was awarded the \$1,000 James L. Keeley Award & Department of Ohio Award (combined).

Lauren Solem, from Whitefish, Mont., represented the VFW Department of Montana, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of South Dakota VFW and Auxiliary Award & Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Award (combined).

Jane Rowell, from Douglas, Ga., represented the VFW Department of Georgia, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Georgia and Auxiliary Award.

Ava Louviere, from West Jordan, Utah, represented the VFW Department of Utah, and was awarded the \$750 Department of Kansas VFW and Auxiliary Award and Department of Iowa Award (combined).

Rory Decker, from Honesdale, Pa., represented the VFW Department of Pennsylvania, and was awarded the \$750 VFW Department of Washington and Auxiliary Eric G. Sandstrom Memorial Award.

Kaitlyn Larsen, from Granville, N.D., represented the VFW Department of North Dakota, and was awarded the \$500 Glenn D. Raney Memorial (Louisiana) Award.

Kristin Wailes, from Scranton, Iowa, represented the VFW Department of Iowa, and was awarded the \$500 Mary Margaret Romano Memorial (Dept. of Connecticut) Award.

William Chen, from Kailua, Hawaii, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Southern Conference Award.

Katelyn Aasman, from Fayetteville, N.C., represented the VFW Department of North Carolina, and was awarded the \$500 Edward S. Banas, Sr. Award.

Rae Ruiz, from Portales, N.M., represented the VFW Department of New Mexico, and was awarded the \$500 Deering Memorial Post 6859, Portland Maine Award.

Claire Rush, from Mandeville, La., represented the VFW Department of Louisiana, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Tennessee John Furgess Award.

Zoe Robinson, from Evansville, Ind., represented the VFW Department of Indiana, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Missouri VFW and Auxiliary Award.

Ella Williamson, from Grafenwoehr, Germany, represented the VFW Department of Europe, and was awarded the \$500 The Robin V. Fell Memorial Award.

Eva Blankenberger, from Pembroke, Ky., represented the VFW Department of Kentucky, and was awarded the \$500 Deering Memorial Post 6859, Auxiliary Portland Maine Award.

Ava Lugo, from Panama City, Panama, represented unaffiliated Posts, and was awarded the \$500 Department of South Carolina and Auxiliary Award.

Arden Manson, from Chevy Chase, Md., represented the VFW Department of Virginia, and was awarded the \$500 Sanford-Springvale Memorial VFW Post 9935 Award.

Boaz Dernlan, from Bear, Del., represented the VFW Department of Delaware, and was awarded the \$500 Department of California Award.

Hannah Miller, from Sheboygan, Wis., represented the VFW Department of Wisconsin, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Arkansas, "Dewayne Fletcher Memorial" Award.

Jesse White, from Howard City, Mich., represented the VFW Department of Michigan, and was awarded the \$500 Frederick H. Smalley Department of New Mexico Award.

Hannah Cunningham, from Burlington, Vt., represented the VFW Department of Vermont, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Department of Pacific Areas Award.

Brooke Shaw, from Selma, Ala., represented the VFW Department of Alabama, and was awarded the \$500 VFW Department of New Jersey Award.

Marisa Malander, from Albion, Neb., represented the VFW Department of Nebraska, and was awarded the \$500 Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio Charities Award.

Nathaniel Kerr, from East Haddam, Conn., represented the VFW Department of Connecticut, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Award.

Riley Baldwin, from Fairview Heights, Ill., represented the VFW Department of Illinois, and was awarded the \$500 The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Mississippi and Auxiliary Award.

Marcus Adkins, from Green Sulphur Springs, W.V., represented the VFW Department of West Virginia, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Award.

Katelyn King, from Van Buren, Ark., represented the VFW Department of Arkansas, and was awarded the \$500 Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki and 2015-2016 Department Commanders Award.

Wyatt Ayers, from Sopchoppy, Fla., represented the VFW Department of Florida, and was awarded the \$500 National President Francisca Guilford and 2015-2016 Auxiliaries Award.

Sophia Spilinek, from North Pole, Alaska, represented the VFW Department of Alaska, and was awarded the \$500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Award.

Lucy Crosby, from Burlington, Wash., represented the VFW Department of Washington, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Nevada Award.

Javon Major, from Okinawa, Japan, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, and was awarded the \$500 Department of Pennsylvania 2015-16 "LDRSHIP" Award.

Sam Williams, from Gray, Maine, represented the VFW Department of Maine, and was awarded the \$500 Peter J. Mascetti Jr. & Department of Europe Award.

Robert VanEtta, from Scio, Ore., represented the VFW Department of Oregon, and was awarded the \$500 VFW and Auxiliary members of Southern Charles County Memorial Post 10081, Dept. of Maryland Award.

McKayla Brents, from Fort Towson, Okla., represented the VFW Department of Oklahoma, and was awarded the \$500 Gilbert N. Nelson Post 1326 and their Auxiliary, Bismarck, ND Award.