



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
Announces the 2019-20 Voice of Democracy  
National Scholarship Winners**

First place winner Shruthi Kumar, from Elkhorn, NE., represented the VFW Department of Nebraska, and was awarded the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship.

Second place winner Rachel Perry, from New Bedford, MA, represented the VFW Department of Massachusetts, and was awarded the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship.

Third place winner Dallin Christensen, from Pleasant View, UT, represented the VFW Department of Utah, and was awarded the \$10,000 VFW Scholarship.

Fourth place winner Seth Weeks, from Sandwich, IL, represented the VFW Department of Illinois, and was awarded the \$7,000 LeRoy Moorhead Memorial Scholarship.

Fifth place winner Joseph McDonald, from Polson, MT, represented the VFW Department of Montana, and was awarded the \$6,000 Floyd County VFW Post 3281, New Albany Indiana Scholarship & Mr. and Mrs. John Biedrzycki and the 2015 Homecoming Committee Scholarship (PA) Combined.

Sixth place winner Sara Smith, from Fargo, ND, represented the VFW Department of North Dakota, and was awarded the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Dept. of Delaware Scholarship.

Seventh place winner Shannon O'Hare, from Chugiak, AK, represented the VFW Department of Alaska, 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 Ellie Wolthuis, from Barrington, NH, represented the VFW Department of New Hampshire, and was awarded the \$4,000 Department of Minnesota William F. Halsey Memorial.

Ninth place winner Justin Thomas, from Tigard, OR, represented the VFW Department of Oregon, and was awarded the \$3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G. Salmon Memorial Scholarship.

Tenth place winner Jessica Schlaudt, from Lufkin, TX, represented the VFW Department of Texas, and was awarded the \$3,000 Joseph and Irene Hansen Memorial Scholarship (MD).

Neily Raymond, from Hermon, ME, represented the VFW Department of Maine, and was awarded the \$2,500 Daniel Sean Wallace Memorial Scholarships (NJ).

Benjamin Gossett, from Scottsboro, AL, represented the VFW Department of Alabama, and was awarded the \$2,500 Troy and Sandy Rothbart Memorial Scholarship (NY).

Olivia Lee, from Seneca, SC, represented the VFW Department of South Carolina, and was awarded the \$2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship (CA).

Isabella Gharib, from Charleston, WV, represented the VFW Department of West Virginia, and was awarded the \$2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship (MD).

Elizabeth Meshkin, from Ladera Ranch, CA, represented the VFW Department of California, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Arizona and Auxiliary Harry A. Kosht Memorial Scholarship.

Ruth Anand, from Akron, OH, represented the VFW Department of Ohio, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of California and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Kayla Teipen, from New Palestine, IN, represented the VFW Department of Indiana, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Illinois VFW – Ray Soden/George Cramer Scholarship.

Elizabeth Link, from Inver Grove Heights, MN, represented the VFW Department of Minnesota, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Wisconsin Wally Hogan/Tom Tradewell Commanders-in-Chief Scholarship.

ShaLynne Ouellette, from Berkshire, NY, represented the VFW Department of New York, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Kentucky and Auxiliary Brian Duffy and Marion Watson Scholarship.

Lillian Baird, from Leola, PA, represented the VFW Department of , and was awarded the \$2,000 Francis Tallman Memorial Scholarship & Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship (NY) (combined).

Journi James, from Eufaula, OK, represented the VFW Department of Oklahoma, and was awarded the \$2,000 Walter and Doris Marshall Memorial Scholarship (MT) & Southern Conference Scholarship (combined).

Pierette Foy Kougha, from Linden, NJ, represented the VFW Department of New Jersey, and was awarded the \$2,000 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black Scholarship (NC) & Jane Young Memorial Scholarship (OH) (combined).

Ella Bradley, from Calais, VT, represented the VFW Department of Vermont, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Alabama Scholarship & Department of Georgia James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Memorial Scholarship (combined).

Nicholas DuBois, from Mineral Point, WI, represented the VFW Department of Wisconsin, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Georgia R.D. “Bulldog” Smith, Jr. Scholarship & Department of Ohio Chester J. Koch Memorial Scholarship (combined).

Sienna Bertamini, from Hong Kong, represented the VFW Department of Pacific, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Scholarship & Stephen and Elsie Riordan Memorial Scholarship (NJ) (combined).

Kaitlyn James, from Celebration, FL, represented the VFW Department of Florida, and was awarded the \$2,000 Larry W. Rivers Scholarship (LA) & Department of Illinois Scott Post 4183 Scholarship (combined).

Sophia Crowder, from South Hill, VA, represented the VFW Department of Virginia, and was awarded the \$2,000 All American Post 284 Scholarship (D.C.) & Bernard J. Michels, Post 9610 and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Alexanderea Wong, from Honolulu, HI, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$2,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee Scholarship & Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarship (MD) (combined).

Genevieve Hayes, from Casa Grande, AZ, represented the VFW Department of Arizona, and was awarded the \$2,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary Scholarship (MN) & Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined).

Mackenzie Roberts, from Wagner, SD, represented the VFW Department of South Dakota, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Hampshire Scholarship.

Ariadne Dulchinos, from Barrington, RI, represented the VFW Department of Rhode Island, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Illinois and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Ayushman Choudhury, from Ellington, CT, represented the VFW Department of Connecticut, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Missouri and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Jordan Bell, from Alamogordo, NM, represented the VFW Department of New Mexico, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Clarabelle Watson, from Naples, Italy, represented the VFW Department of Europe, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Massachusetts Edward A. Nardi Scholarship.

Kaylee Tinsley, from Frankfort, KY, represented the VFW Department of Kentucky, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Colorado and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Liliane Anderson, from Rigby, ID, represented the VFW Department of Idaho, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Arkansas and Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial Scholarship.

Amy Ludescher, from North Branch, MI, represented the VFW Department of Michigan, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Sophia Hoffman, from Lee's Summit, MO, represented the VFW Department of Missouri, and was awarded the \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Auxiliary Scholarship (ND).

Dailyn Nichols, from Gillette, WY, represented the VFW Department of Wyoming, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Tennessee Cooper T. Holt - John Furgess Scholarship.

Karli Abbott, from Trappe, MD, represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Kansas and Auxiliary Robert R. Whipple Memorial Scholarship.

Brianna Busch, from Bellevue, IA, represented VFW Department of Iowa, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vicites Memorial Scholarship.

Kathlyn Hedstrom, from Spring Creek, NV, represented the VFW Department of Nevada, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Hannah Miller, from Bentonville, AR, represented the VFW Department of Arkansas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship (CA).

Brianna Ball, from Paola, KS, represented the VFW Department of Kansas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi Toxie K. Stapleton Post 6473 Luther J. Cox Memorial Scholarship.

Jon Castleman, from Dyersburg, TN, represented the VFW Department of Tennessee, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Gabrielle De Marco, from Enumclaw, WA, represented the VFW Department of Washington, and was awarded the \$1,000 Gilbert N. Nelson - Post 1326 and their Auxiliary - Bismarck, North Dakota Scholarship.

Juliana Handlin, from Newark, DE, represented the VFW Department of Delaware, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi VFW and Auxiliary Bernard McClelland Memorial Scholarship.

Ella Otken, from Denham Springs, LA, represented the VFW Department of Louisiana, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Florida John M. "Jack" Carney Scholarship.

Sophia Sinda, from Trinidad, CO, represented the VFW Department of Colorado, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Maine Scholarship "to Remember the U.S.S. Maine."

Austin Amos, from Walkertown, NC, represented the VFW Department of North Carolina, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Nevada and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Eli Coleman, from Meridian, MS, represented the VFW Department of Mississippi, and was awarded the \$1,000 Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank and 2010-2011 Department Commanders Scholarship (CA).