



VFW Post 1865



Junker-Ball Cullet

May 2024

Final Roll Call

No Members This Month

Commanders Corner

THE POST MEETING THIS MONTH WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY ON MAY 8TH AT 7 PM. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

ELECTIONS WERE HELD LAST MONTH CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW OFFICERS!

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Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month

Phone: (262) 652-2751 Email: VFWPost1865@yahoo.com

VFW MISSION: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.





Calendar of Events

May 2024

- 2nd—7:30pm Cooties Meeting**
- 6th— 7 PM Scout Troop**
- 8th— 7pm Post Meeting**
- 8th —7PM DAV Meeting**
- 8th—V-Day**
- 12th—Girl Scouts Meeting**
- 12th—Mother’s Day**
- 13th—7 PM Scout Troop**
- 15th—7PM Auxiliary Meeting**
- 18th—Armed Forces Day**
- 20th—7pm Scout Troop 1865**

- 21st—7 PM VFWRG Meeting**
- 26th—Girl Scouts Meeting**
- 27th—Memorial Day**
- Noon Ceremony**
- 1PM Flag Retirement**



Cooties Pup Tent 6

All, Next Scratch is Thursday, May 2nd at 7:30 pm at the Post.
Remember recruiting new nitts is every Cooties
Responsibility.

We're open to ideas on Fundraising and how to support Veterans.





BAR Hours

Monday thru Thursday

3PM to 10 PM

Friday & Saturday

Noon to 11 PM

Sunday Noon to 6 PM

Banquet Halls for Rent

Happy Hour

Need a place to hold your,

Wedding, Birthday Party,

Anniversaries, or any Event.

Two Banquet Halls available for rent.

Post Officers & Contact information

Commander	SR Vice Cmdr.,	JR Vice
Arran Edwards	Rob Roberts	Dewy Linhart

Service Officer	Quartermaster	Chaplain
Rob Roberts	Bob Vanbendegom	Ken Powers

House Committee Chair Doug Cochran

Cootie Pup Tent 6, Officers

Seam Squirrel	Blanket Bum	High Gimlet
Paul Kirsh	Ken Powers	John Otahal

VFWS Auxiliary Officers

President	SR Vice	JR Vice
Barbara Goode	Jim Martin	Mike Wegmann

VFWS Riders Group Officers

President	Vice President	Secretary
Angie Mercer	Rob Roberts	Lorie Sorenson

6618 38th Ave
Kenosha WI, 53142
(262) 652-2751

Email: vfwpost1865@yahoo.com

Comrades,

The Kenosha Area Vietnam Veterans "Honor Guard" is in need of Vietnam veterans or younger veterans to be a part of it's "Honor Guard". The "KAVV Honor Guard"

Takes part in most veterans funerals as well as civic events

The "Honor Guard" is part of the State of Wisconsin Honors Program.

For information on becoming a member of the

"Kenosha Honor Guard" please contact Rich Bowker at

(262)-694-1129 or (262)-705-4202



You could have your special day, wishes to someone or photo
 In the newsletter submit your special event to:
 VFVPost1865@yahoo.com



VFV Post1865@yahoo.com
 before the 28th of the month.
 To be include in the next months newsletter

May Birthday's

(information below pulled from the bar B-day book)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1st James Smelcer | 15th Kevin Alher |
| 4th Chet | 19th Ed Walton |
| 6th DeDe J. | 22nd Lisa Bose |
| 12th Bob Hildebrand | 25th Rob Roberts |
| 13th Ryan Riechter | 26th Dennis Eis |
| 15th Keith Alher | |



If you would like your Birth-
 day or Special Event added
 to the Newsletter, stop by the
 Bar and ask your Bartender,
 for the Birthday Book and
 enter it into the book.
 This is where the information
 for the newsletter is pulled
 from.



VFW Riders:

Congratulations to our new Officers that will be taking over next month. President- Tank, VP - Mr. Bill, Treasury- Jean, Secretary-Lori, & Chaplain- Cornbread.

Tank will appoint a Sgt of Arms and Road Captains. We voted to have our Charity for 2024 our relief fund. We need to get those funds up so we can help our veterans.

Also we voted yes to participate in the Kenosha Parade because it would be a shame not to have any Veteran motorcycle group in the parade.

Please get your 2024 dues paid!

Pop's renewed our class A and B raffle licenses. We have to toe the line with these licenses, the consequences are no joke!

It has been my pleasure serving as an officer all these years. Looking forward to new leadership and ideas. Please let's give them all our support.

Angie

★ JUNE 2024 ★

VFW AUXILIARY POST 1865 KENOSHA
PARTNERING EXCLUSIVELY WITH

BOUCHER
— **AUTO GROUP** —

PACK THE PICK-UP EVENT

Collecting Non-Perishable Foods for
Ground Zero Veterans Outreach

GORDIE BOUCHER FORD OF KENOSHA
8301 75th St, Kenosha, WI 53142

**GORDIE BOUCHER VILLAGE FORD
OF THIENSVILLE**
121 N Main St, Thiensville, WI 53092

**GORDIE BOUCHER FORD
OF MENOMONEE FALLS**
N88W14300 Main St, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

BOUCHER BUICK GMC OF WAUKESHA
1907 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha, WI 53186

BOUCHER CADILLAC OF WAUKESHA
2145 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha, WI 53186

BOUCHER CHEVROLET OF WAUKESHA
1421 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha, WI 53186

BOUCHER HYUNDAI OF WAUKESHA
1537 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha, WI 53186

BOUCHER NISSAN OF WAUKESHA
1451 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha, WI 53186

FRANK BOUCHER CADILLAC OF RACINE
8600 Washington Ave Building #100,
Racine, WI 53406

FRANK BOUCHER CHEVROLET OF RACINE
8600 Washington Ave, Mt Pleasant, WI 53406

FRANK BOUCHER KIA OF RACINE
9601 Washington Ave, Racine, WI 53406

FRANK BOUCHER MAZDA OF RACINE
9601 Washington Ave #101, Racine, WI 53406

**GORDIE BOUCHER LINCOLN
OF WEST ALLIS**
3161 S 108th St, West Allis, WI 53227

**GORDIE BOUCHER NISSAN
OF GREENFIELD**
4141 S 108th St, Greenfield, WI 53228

GENESIS OF MILWAUKEE
1583 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha, WI 53186

**FRANK BOUCHER VOLKSWAGEN
OF RACINE**
9601 Washington Ave #200, Racine, WI 53406

BOUCHER VOLKSWAGEN OF FRANKLIN
6420 S 108th St, Franklin, WI 53132

NISSAN LAKE COUNTRY
N48W36216 E Wisconsin Ave,
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

SAL PAPPALARDO
(262) 697-0700

★ JUNE 2024 ★

PACK THE PICK-UP EVENT

ALL PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS

(no toothbrushes or toothpaste)

HAND LOTIONS

SUNSCREENS

ALL CLEANING SUPPLIES

(including laundry detergent & dryer sheets)

ALL CANNED GOODS

CANNED MEALS

(dinty moore, tuna, chicken, soups, chilis)

BOXED ITEMS

(mashed potatoes, rice dishes, mac & cheese)

POWDERED MILK

CEREALS

CEREAL BARS

OATMEAL

CANNED & JARRED FRUIT

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

CRACKERS OF ALL KINDS

SNACKS & CHIPS/PRETZELS

COOKIES

COFFEE, TEAS, & POWDERED DRINKS

All items may be dropped off at any

BOUCHER AUTO GROUP DEALERSHIP



OFFICERS FOR 2024—2025

Barbara Goode—President

Jim Martin—Sr. Vice

Megan Gundlach Jr. Vice

Karen Wagner—Treasurer

Kim Bruns—Secretary

Virginia Hardesty—Chaplain

Sue "Firebird" Rouna—Chaplain Assistant

Michael Wegmans—Guard

Trustees: Jim Martin, Virginia Hardesty & Megan Gundlach

Please see Pack the Pick-UP Event flyers from the two previous pages



Camping, Camping, Camping. It was spring break and a campout for the month.

Scout Troop 1865

email, troop1865scoutmaster@gmail.com or scoutmastertroop1865g@gmail.com or stop in Monday nights during our normal Troop meeting times between 7:00PM and 8:30PM.

Thank you for all your support of our scouts and the many opportunities they have











Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC)

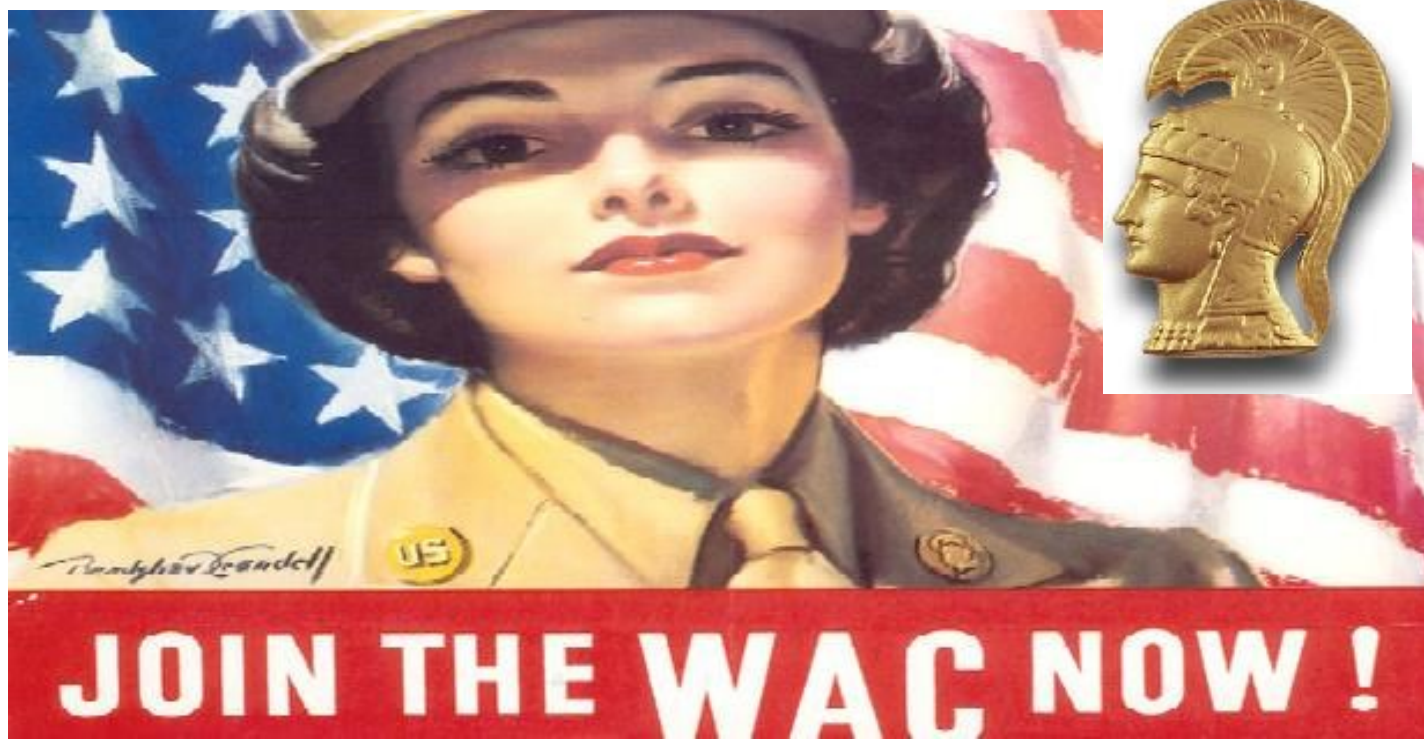
With war looming, U.S. Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts introduced a bill for the creation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in May 1941. Having been a witness to the status of women in World War I, Rogers vowed that if American women served in support of the Army, they would do so with all the rights and benefits afforded to Soldiers.

Spurred on by the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Congress approved the creation of WAAC on May 14, 1942. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill into law on May 15, and on May 16, Oveta Culp Hobby was sworn in as the first director. WAAC was established "for the purpose of making available to the national defense the knowledge, skill, and special training of women of the nation."

DID YOU KNOW?

WAAC adopted Pallas Athene, Greek goddess of victory and womanly virtue - wise in peace and in the arts of war - as its symbol.

Pallas Athene and the traditional "U.S." were worn as lapel insignia. Cap insignia was an eagle, adapted from the design of the Army eagle. The WAAC eagle, later familiarly known as "the Buzzard," was also imprinted on the plastic buttons of the uniform.



Resources to Find Help

Veterans Crisis Line
1.800.273.TALK (8255)
www.veteranscrisisline.net

Give an Hour providers
www.giveanhour.org

Click on "Search for a Provider"

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
1.800.622.HELP (4357)
www.samhsa.gov

Patients Like Me online network
www.patientslikeme.com

VA Health Care
1.877.222.VETS (8387)
www.va.gov/health

PTSD Coach Online Apps
www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/apps/ptsdcoachonline

Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health & Traumatic Brain Injury
www.dcoe.mil

VA Vet Center Program
www.vetcenter.va.gov/

Know the Five Signs of Emotional Suffering

Personality Change: Sudden or gradual changes in the way someone typically behaves.

Agitation: When someone seems uncharacteristically angry, anxious, agitated, or moody.

Withdrawal: Withdrawn or isolated from other people; pulling away from family and friends.

Poor Self-Care: Has stopped taking care of themselves and may engage in risky behavior.

Hopelessness: Seems overcome with hopelessness and overwhelmed by their circumstances.

*If you recognize that someone in your life is suffering, **CONNECT, REACH OUT, INSPIRE HOPE, and OFFER HELP!***

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: 816.756.3390
www.vfw.org

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

VFW MENTAL WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

Awareness, support and intervention for veterans



Our Objective:

The purpose of the project is to educate VFW and VFW Auxiliary members, veterans and communities about the important topic of mental health and wellness, and offer proven tools to intervene on behalf of veterans in crisis.

In order to help bring this complex set of issues to light for our members, veterans, the military and our communities, it is essential that the VFW and VFW Auxiliary work hand-in-hand on every level to bring the needed awareness and education to everyone.

Mental health issues for veterans and the military community are complex, often unseen, and affect more than just the service member or veteran. With 1.6 million members, the VFW and VFW Auxiliary are uniquely positioned to offer the support and educational base camp in more than 6,000 communities nationwide.

Join VFW in opening our hearts, homes and Posts to those who defended our freedoms.

Quick Facts:

Veterans report that their mental health issues are very similar to those in the civilian population, which commonly relate to interpersonal relationships and economic concerns. These issues have shown to increase with deployment.

One of the most common claimed conditions for clients who seek assistance from VFW service officers is a mental health condition.

Veterans who seek care for mental health through VA facilities are more likely to have positive health outcomes.

VA reports that as many as 20 veterans choose to end their lives every day. But contrary to popular belief, most veterans who attempt suicide are older or have not deployed to a combat area.

The VFW's community posture has historically provided a safe space for veterans to offer one another peer-to-peer support. This means that the VFW is uniquely poised to serve this therapeutic need for today's veterans.

Program Goals:

- ✓ Build partnerships to serve the needs of service members, veterans, and families suffering from invisible injuries
- ✓ Provide training and resources to VFW personnel who provide direct services to veterans
- ✓ Create templates for VFW Posts and Departments to raise awareness and host community-based events
- ✓ Offer opportunities for VFW members to share experiences and leverage partner resources
- ✓ Contribute to research efforts that advance the dialogue on brain health and foster the development of new evidence-based treatments
- ✓ Advocate for federal legislation to improve access to mental health care and transitional benefits

Strategic Partners



www.giveanhour.org

MISSION: To develop national networks of volunteers capable of responding to both acute and chronic conditions that arise within our society, beginning with the mental health needs of those who serve and their families.

✓ Confidential and free mental health care for service members, veterans, and their loved ones through a network of nearly 7,000 licensed providers.

✓ Initiative to change the culture of mental health in America, called the Campaign to Change Direction: www.ChangeDirection.org



MISSION: To accelerate the development and implementation of improved diagnostics and treatments for post-traumatic stress (PTS) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) -- through creating global public-private partnerships among governmental, corporate, scientific and philanthropic communities -- based on our belief in open science principles.

✓ Research collaborations with academic, medical, and veterans' service communities

✓ Online community tool for service members, veterans, and families coping with invisible wounds via "Patients Like Me"





Victory in Europe Day, generally known as **V-E Day**, **VE Day** or simply **V Day**, was the public holiday celebrated on 8 May 1945 to mark the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. The formal surrender of the German forces occupying the Channel Islands did not occur until the following day, 9 May 1945. It thus marked the end of World War II in Europe.

The term VE Day existed as early as September 1944, in anticipation of victory. On 30 April 1945, Adolf Hitler, the Nazi leader, committed suicide during the Battle of Berlin. Germany's surrender, therefore, was authorized by his successor, *Reichspräsident* Karl Dönitz. The administration headed by Dönitz was known as the Flensburg Government. The act of military surrender was signed on 7 May in Reims, France^[4] and on 8 May in Berlin, Germany.

Celebrations: Upon the defeat of Germany, celebrations erupted throughout the western world. From Moscow to Los Angeles, people celebrated.

In the United Kingdom, more than one million people celebrated in the streets to mark the end of the European part of the war. In London, crowds massed in Trafalgar Square and up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, appeared on the balcony of the palace before the cheering crowds. Princess Elizabeth (the future Queen Elizabeth II) and her sister Princess Margaret were allowed to wander incognito among the crowds and take part in the celebrations.

In the United States, the victory happened on President Harry Truman's 61st birthday. He dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had died of a cerebral hemorrhage less than a month earlier, on 12 April. flags remained at half-staff for the remainder of the 30-day mourning period. Truman said of dedicating the victory to Roosevelt's memory and keeping the flags at half-staff that his only wish was "that Franklin D. Roosevelt had lived to witness this day." Later that day, Truman said that the victory made it his most enjoyable birthday.

Massive celebrations also took place in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and especially in New York's Times Square

Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signing the final surrender terms on 8 May 1945 in Berlin

Peace Officers Memorial Day



*in honor of all Federal, State, and Local
Officers killed or disabled in the line of duty*



ARMED FORCES DAY



MAY 18th, 2024

COME CELEBRATE

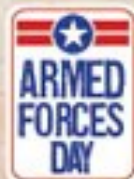
ARMED FORCES WEEK

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS

FREE SANDWICH for all active duty service members and veterans.
Thanks For Your Service.

ARMY	MON, 5/13
MARINE CORPS	TUE, 5/14
NAVY	WED, 5/15
AIR FORCE & SPACE FORCE	THU, 5/16
COAST GUARD	FRI, 5/17

AN INVITATION FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS



**LUNCH WITH
THE HEROES**..... **SAT, 5/18**

11:00AM-2:00PM

Join us for a **FREE SANDWICH** and be sure to arrive
before Noon for our live National Anthem.

MISSION BBQ
The American Way.



Milwaukee Brewers Free Ticket Offer for Military/Veterans 2024



The Milwaukee Brewers are pleased to announce the continuation of Military Sundays for the 2024 season. Any active-duty military member or veteran can receive up to two free Terrace Level tickets by showing their military ID at the ticket office prior to any Sunday home game. This offer is available only on the day of the game when the ticket office opens at 10 a.m. and is subject to availability.

The Brewers have also partnered with GovX to offer discounted tickets to active-duty military members and veterans for Sunday home games at American Family Field. To purchase these tickets, please visit [Military and First Responders Discount Offer | Milwaukee Brewers \(mlb.com\)](#).

FREE Sunday Home Games

Sunday, April 7	Seattle Mariners	1:10pm
Sunday, April 28	New York Yankees	1:10pm
Sunday, May 12	St. Louis Cardinals	1:10pm
Sunday, June 2	Chicago White Sox	1:10pm
Sunday, June 16	Cincinnati Reds	1:10pm
Sunday, June 30	Chicago Cubs	1:10pm
Sunday, July 14	Washington Nationals	1:10pm
Sunday, July 28	Miami Marlins	1:10pm
Sunday, August 11	Cincinnati Reds	1:10pm
Sunday, August 18	Cleveland Guardians	1:10pm
Sunday, Sept. 8	Colorado Rockies	1:10pm
Sunday, Sept. 22	Arizona Diamondbacks	1:10pm
Sunday, Sept. 29	New York Mets	2:10pm

Game times are subject to change. Please contact Milwaukee Brewers Box Office at 414.902.4000 if you have questions.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



2024-2025 Theme

“Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW’s) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year’s theme is, “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-11 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 10 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindAPost to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2024. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.



2024-2025 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) _____ Grade in School _____ Age _____ Jacket Size _____

School Name, City, State _____

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable) _____

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian (Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

() _____
Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant _____ Date _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable) _____

Post Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

VFW Post Email _____

No. of students participating _____

No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards: \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (transport, plane, etc.): \$ _____

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature _____ Dist. # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____
Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature _____

() _____
Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

For assistance contact:
816.868.1155
Email: youth@scholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____





PATRIOT'S PEN



2024-2025 Theme

"My Voice in America's Democracy?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$999 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2024. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:
You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:
Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:
Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2024-2025 theme is:

"My Voice in America's Democracy?"

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2024.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/contactus to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters
at 816.968.1155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org



2024-2025 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

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Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian (Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.

- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.

- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).

- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified whenever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants

No. of winners

Am't. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Am't. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Travel, Print, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

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Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner has been will be (select one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____

