



The Virginia War Memorial is now accepting entries for the 2022 Veterans Day Essay Contest.

- The contest is open to all Middle and High School students in Virginia
- One winner will be selected from each age group (grades 6-8 and 9-12)

Winners and their teachers will receive a prize, and winning students will be recognized during the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2022. Winning students may be asked to present their submissions at the Virginia War Memorial during the ceremony, and their essays will be printed in the Virginia War Memorial Foundation's Newsletter.

This year's prompt as well as guidelines for submissions can be found below:

Prompt: Write about a Virginian who served in the United States military during the Vietnam War who inspires you.

January 2023 marks the 50 year anniversary of the conclusion of the Vietnam War. To honor these men and women who served in the military during the war in southeast Asia, the Virginia War Memorial is calling on all students to write about a service member who inspires them.

- Subjects of your essay may be someone you know personally or not: although we prefer that you interview someone who served in Vietnam, other methods of research are acceptable.
- When selecting the subject of your essay, consider your family, members of your community, or others whose stories resonate with you personally.
- He or she may be from any branch of the military, and have served at any time during the Vietnam War.
- Consider what lessons they have taught you, and what we could all learn from their example. Your essay should focus on their time in service, though you may also address their time as a civilian if relevant.

You may develop your response through speaking with an individual and using primary sources. Although personal interviews are encouraged, feel free to utilize newspaper records, personal anecdotes, military records, letters, books, internet research, or more to tell us about your subject and why they inspire you.

Please contact Crystal Coon (crystal.coon@dvs.virginia.gov) with any questions.

The essay contest is sponsored by the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, which proudly supports the Virginia War Memorial in its efforts to preserve the stories of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice, to honor all veterans and active-duty military, and to inspire love of country through education.