



CALL FOR ENTRIES
September 3, 2024

Lizzie Oglesby, Education Outreach & Programs Manager
elizabeth.oglesby@dvs.virginia.gov 804.786.9700

Virginia War Memorial's 2024 Veterans Day Essay Contest

Write about a Virginian who Served in the United States Military whose Story Inspires You

The Virginia War Memorial (VWM) in Richmond is calling on students for entries to the *Virginia War Memorial's 2024 Veterans Day Essay Contest*. This annual competition is open to all Virginia middle and high school age public, private and homeschooled students. One winner will be selected from among all middle school entries (grades 6-8) and one from high school entries (grades 9-12).

The essay topic for the 2024 contest is “*A Virginian who served in the United States military who inspires you.*” Students may consider a member of their family, of their community, or a famous man or woman from Virginia who served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces from WWI to the present as their subject. Submissions should be 500-750 words in length, incorporate at least one primary source, and include an APA or MLA style bibliography.

The two students who write the winning essays will each receive a prize package courtesy of the McDonalds of Richmond and Hampton Roads.

The student winners will also be invited to read their essays during the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony at VWM on Monday, November 11, 2024.

The deadline for entries to be submitted electronically to the VWM website is midnight, Sunday, October 20, 2024. Complete information regarding the essay theme, rules, guidelines and how to enter is available at

<https://vawarmemorial.org/learn/contests-scholarships/essay/>.

The Virginia War Memorial Foundation proudly supports the educational and patriotic programs offered by VWM.

SUBJECTS

- Veterans in your family, community members, or others whose stories resonate with you.
- Consider what lessons may be learned by their example.
- Focus on their time in service, though you may also address their time as a civilian or veteran.

RESOURCES

- Speak with the veteran, or people who knew them.
- Utilize primary resources, newspaper records, personal stories, military records, letters, books, and internet.
- **Virginia War Memorial Archives**
Contact Archivist Sylvia Marshall to view archival material and oral histories that may help you to create an essay.
Sylvia.Marshall@dvs.virginia.gov

FINALISTS

- Entries will be judged on clarity, grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and adherence to the contest theme and guidelines.
- Sources must be properly cited in a bibliography (APA or MLA style).

QUESTIONS?

- Contact VWM's Education Outreach & Programs Manager
Elizabeth.Oglesby@dvs.virginia.gov