



Gulf Breeze Student Places Third in VFW Essay Competition

Borges' winning essay takes home \$3,500 prize

WASHINGTON (March 3, 2020) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is pleased to announce Rei Borges, an eighth grade student from Gulf Breeze, Florida, has been named the third place national winner and recipient of a \$3,500 award in its 2019-20 Patriot's Pen essay contest. Rei, who was sponsored by Mary Esther, Florida, VFW Post 11367, wrote her winning essay based on this year's theme, "What Makes America Great."

Since its inception in 1995, the VFW's Patriot's Pen essay competition has helped foster patriotism by encouraging young minds to examine our nation's history along with their own experiences in modern American society while improving their writing skills.

Open to eligible sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, the competition requires students to submit a 300- to 400-word essay expressing their views on a selected patriotic theme while competing for their share of more than \$900,000 in awards and prizes.



More than 138,000 students participated in this year's competition. Rei competed at the national level against 51 other state finalists for individual awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. In all, the VFW awarded [more than \\$55,000 to the top national winners](#).

[Learn more about the Patriot's Pen program here.](#)

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About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally-chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.6 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at vfw.org.

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