



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contest
2026-2027
“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”**

Info To: Department Commander Jim Brown
Department President Cecelia Cook
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
District Patriot's Pen Chairmen and District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: William D. Lamond III
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Chairperson

Subject: 2026-2027 Patriot's Pen Patriotic Youth Essay Competition

Theme: “What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Welcome to another exciting year of the Annual State Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Writing Contest. I know that with all your hard work and dedication to this program we will have yet another successful year. This year, the theme “What a Veteran Taught Me About America” encourages young minds to examine America's storied history as well as their own experiences in American society. I thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to this program. With your support, we will have a very successful year. The following information should help you get started:

Post and District Chairpersons can access the program guides, find participating Posts, download student brochures or purchase them online (Item #04420) from the National VFW website www.vfw.org. Students can also complete a Patriot's Pen entry form on the National website using the Patriot's Pen link. The Department website is www.vfwpa.org; where you will find Department deadlines and the student entry brochure.

State Deadlines for the 2026-2027 Patriot's Pen Program are listed below:

- 1.) October 31, 2026 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight
- 2.) November 16, 2026 - Post judging completed
- 3.) December 1, 2026 - District judging completed
- 4.) December 4, 2026 - District Winner Entry Form, Typed Essay, Head and Shoulders Photo of good quality, District Summary Report and District Participation report **in the hands** of the Department Chairman, William D. Lamond III, 3360 Nashotka Road, Madison Township, PA 18444. **THESE MUST BE MAILED. NO EMAILS, PLEASE.**

*****DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS*****

- 5.) December 11, 2026 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
- 6.) January 15, 2027- Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters
- 7.) January 18, 2027 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet at the Penn Stater Hotel, State College. The Patriot's Pen first place winner for the Department will attend.

Please note that all Patriot's Pen participation reporting is completed on the All-American Dashboard, starting at the Post level. Once the Post completes their judging and forwards their winners to the District Chairperson, the Post must enter the participation stats (Post and Auxiliary participation, number of participating students, number of winners advanced, monetary awards and additional money expended) into the dashboard. When the District and Department approves your participation report, National will approve and turn status to MET in the dashboard. This process will ensure each Post receives credit. For more information on reporting program participation visit, vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard.

REMINDER: One of Commander Brown's requirements for All State Post is a Patriot's Pen entry or monetary donation in lieu of an entry. **All Divisions: Donation of \$500.00**

The State Auxiliary Chairperson is Karen Mooney. If you have any questions or concerns, Karen and I can be contacted as follows:

William D. Lamond III
3360 Nashotka Road
Madison Township, PA 18444
(570) 241-5875
Email: ta30chev@gmail.com

Karen Mooney
81 Greenwood Drive
New Cumberland, PA 17070
(717) 580-3994
E-mail: karenmooneycpc@comcast.net

If your Post is unable to get a Patriot's Pen submission, please contact Bill Lamond. He will get you a student's submission!

Thank you!

In Support of our Troops and Friendship in the VFW and Its Auxiliary,

William D. Lamond III

William D. Lamond III
VFW Department of Pennsylvania
Patriot's Pen Chairperson