

Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria, is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7 and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Annually more than 115,000 students participate in the contest.

The Jessie W. Grisham Post 2259 Veterans of Foreign Wars and its' Menes and Ladies Auxiliary is again sponsoring the **Patriot's Pen essay competition**. This competition invites your students in grades 6 through 8 to write a 300-400 word essay on the topic, **"When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?"** Please note that there are appropriate modifications to the rules that are available to your students with documented disabilities. In addition, students who are home schooled are also eligible. The competition awards are below:

1. The local level will award a **\$300.00** US Savings Bond for first place, **\$150.00** US Savings Bond for second place, and **\$75.00** U.S. Savings Bond for third place.
2. The District level will also award US Savings Bonds of **\$150.00** for first place, **\$100.00** for second, and **\$50.00** for third place.
3. The first place winner at the State level will win a US Savings Bond of **\$1000** for first place, **\$500** for second place, and **\$250.00** for third place winners.
4. The first place winner on the national level will be awarded a **\$10,000** U.S. Savings Bond. Other national winners receive awards ranging between **\$1,000 and the first place award of \$10,000.**

The deadline for submission is **November 1, 2009**. Please distribute the enclosed information to interested students and faculty at your school. All submissions should be mailed to the address below and must be postmarked **on or before 11/1/09**. The competition will be judged by representatives of Jesse W. Grisham Post 2259 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its' Ladies Auxiliary of Conway. Please provide the following information along with your students' submissions:

1. Names of all persons involved in the Patriot's Pen competition so we may publicly acknowledge their contributions.
2. Your name.
3. Parents' names and addresses.

Please send your students' essays, official entry form, and the information listed above to:

Patriot's Pen Competition  
C/O Gerald Reckman, Patriot's Pen Chairperson  
Jesse W. Grisham Post 2259  
PO Box 667 Conway, AR 72033

We hope that you will support this effort on behalf of your students. If you, your faculty, or your students or their parents have any questions, please contact Robert Logan at [rlogan@uca.edu](mailto:rlogan@uca.edu) or at 327-1510 after 6pm or email Darlene Goff at [Darlene\\_Goff@nabholz.com](mailto:Darlene_Goff@nabholz.com) or call her at 1-501-505-5100 daily until 5pm. Contact the national VFW on the web at [www.vfw.org/vod](http://www.vfw.org/vod).

Sincerely,

Gerald Reckman  
Patriot's Pen Chairperson  
VFW Post 2259

Enclosures:  
Student Participation Information and forms  
Contest Rules