

The background of the slide is a photograph of a calendar, likely a desk calendar, with a dark, semi-transparent overlay. The calendar shows dates from 1 to 28. The text is centered on the overlay.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

District and Post Teacher Chairmen

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Citations for Elementary, Middle and High School Teachers and Their Schools. 2020-2021 School Year.

This year's FORMS have changed please look them over prior to sending them into Department Chairman.

Dear District/Post Teacher Chairmen

Effective this program year National has updated the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Attached is documentation to assist with running the program, please share the above with those who are responsible for this program in your District. This is no longer required for All American National Teacher of the Year. Each Department winner submitted to National, will receive a citation for the teacher and their school. These will then be forwarded on to the Department Headquarters for presentation. If you should have any questions and cannot find the answer in the attached documentation, please let me know.

This year we will have many more hurdles to cross/jump when we go to the schools to promote the Teachers award program. With the virtual learning being introduced this year we may be able to get more Teachers in each group for their classroom engineering or how they will be conducting classroom class's.

I will enclose a copy of the rules, entry forms, and where to find them on the OMS Web Site. In the hand outs you will be given how to log into the vfw.org/#login where you can find all these forms to download. Look at the attachment with heading smart/maher vfw national citizenship education teacher award citations for elementary, middle and high school teachers and their schools under NOTE:

WHO SHOULD YOU NOMINATE?

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for the award.

If you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall, organizes community volunteer projects or invites local veterans to speak in class, anything to help students develop a better understanding of democratic values and beliefs, this award is for them.

HOW DO I SUBMIT A NOMINATION?

Step 1: In 350 words or less, describe why you feel your nominee is deserving of the award. Be sure to describe the teacher's innovative teaching and resource development methods, as well as his or her dedication to education.

Step 2: Download and complete the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award nomination form.

Step 3: Submit the nomination form along with your explanation to your local VFW Post by Oct. 31.

Note: Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

HOW THE CONTEST WORKS

Based on the nominees submitted, VFW's local chapters - called Posts - will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Posts then submit their winning names and required Documents to their District-level judging.

From there, the selected winners and required documents are forwarded to the Department-level (state-level). Once they are judged on a state level, the winners are passed along to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest.

HELP YOUR KIDS GET A HEAD START ON THEIR FUTURE

To encourage as many students as possible to participate, the VFW provides a number of ways to enter.

Submitting Student Entries

Students can enter directly by submitting the required entry form, along with their essay (and in the case of Voice of Democracy, their recording) to a local participating VFW Post.

Your local VFW Post's contact information can be obtained at vfw.org/FindaPost or by calling the VFW National Programs office during normal business hours at 816.756.3390. Entry forms and instructions can be downloaded from the VFW website vfw.org/VOD.



PATRIOTIC PROJECTS

Teachers and youth leaders may obtain student entry forms in the manner indicated above. You may then select from the following options:

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)

Write a 300-400 word essay on the annual theme available online at vfw.org/patriotspen or by calling 816.756.3390. Use the competition as a patriotic assignment and encourage the students with the best essays to complete the entry form and forward those, along with the essay, to the local VFW Post competition.

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)

Write an essay on the annual theme available online at vfw.org/VOD or by calling 816.756.3390. Again, use the competition as an essay contest and encourage the students with the best essays to record their essays, complete the entry form and forward them, with the recording and typed essay, to the local VFW Post competition.



Local VFW Post Information



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States**

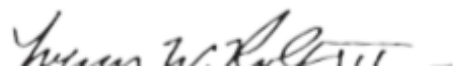
VFW Programs

HELP YOUR KIDS GET A HEAD START ON THEIR FUTURE

An Open Letter to Teachers and Youth Leaders:

Thank you for the time, effort and commitment you invest each year in America's young people. Because of you, our nation continues to produce scholars, dreamers and leaders who benefit the entire world. We, the nearly 1.6 million members of the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary share your commitment to America's youth. Each year, we provide millions of dollars worth of awards and college scholarships to students across the U.S. and overseas. The purpose of these awards is to encourage personal growth and foster a greater understanding and appreciation for America, its history and values. This brochure is provided to acquaint you with the VFW's programs that benefit those young lives you touch each day. Again, thank you for all you do. If we can serve you in any way, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Patriots Pen Essay Contest

Patriot's Pen provides 6th, 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Awards can be given at the local, district and state levels. The state winners compete for \$55,000 in awards at the national level. The first-place national winner receives a \$5,000 award and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C., where they tour the city. **The entry deadline is October 31.**

Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) started the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition in 1947. The VFW became a national sponsor in the late 1950s and assumed sole responsibility for the program in 1961. Many notables have participated in Voice of Democracy including journalist Charles Kuralt, Miss America Anita Bryant and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. The Voice of Democracy competition provides high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to write and record an essay on a patriotic theme, competing for more than \$2 million in college scholarships and incentives. State winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to enjoy our nation's capital and compete for \$154,000 in scholarships - first place receiving a \$30,000 scholarship. **Deadline is October 31.**

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Program

Each year three exceptional teachers are recognized by the VFW for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students.

The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top certified/licensed elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach and promote America's history, traditions and citizenship education effectively. The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recipients are selected from entries submitted to local VFW Posts in every state and overseas.

The awards include the following items:

- A national \$1,000 Past National CIC John Smart award for the top K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 grade teachers for professional development expenses
- \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school
- Plaques for both the winning teacher and school
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention

Nomination must be submitted to a local VFW Post by October 31. Additional information about our program please refer to our website at vfw.org.

VFW Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below reg to distributing this form.
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: Sponsoring District #:
Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)
VFW Post POC
Full Name:
Phone: Email:
Address: (where to mail entry)
City: State: Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:
Phone: Email:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate teacher citation (Elementary, Middle, High)
Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Gender: Phone: Email:
Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
School Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Address of School: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
City: State: Zip:
School Phone: School Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above. Ensure to include all required documentation
that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All winning post entries must be received by their **VFW Department**

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD CITATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SCHOOLS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Effective this year, VFW Post Teacher Award Chairman may submit a candidate to their **Department Headquarters by January 1** in each category. The Department may select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to **VFW National Headquarters by February 1**. VFW's Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school in each grade category.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" which is now available on the VFW website. Simply visit vfw.org/#login, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on VFW Training & Support, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs, then look under Additional Resources. The Teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet, Citation Request form and Chairman's manual will be up on the VFW website in the near future.

Who Is Eligible?

1. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.
2. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

1. All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves. These items will be forwarded on to the Department with the winning Teacher Entry form.

This Ends Our Slide Show for Teacher of the Year 2020-2021

- I will be sending all the forms to the District Teacher Chairmen so they can send them to the Post Teacher Chairmen.
- Remember all entry forms must be signed from the Post, District, and Department Chairman along with the picture of the winning Teacher before they can be sent to National for Judging.
- All paperwork needs to be put together and signed by Post, District before sending up to Department Chairman.

The following slides show you how to log onto the National Web Page.

[Find a Post](#)[About Us](#)[Our Allies](#)[Contact Us](#)[FAQ](#)[VFW Store](#)[Renew](#)[Login](#)[Join](#)[Assistance](#)[Advocacy](#)[Media & Events](#)[Community](#)[Donate](#)[Eligibility](#)[Member Benefits](#)[Renew](#)[VFW Auxiliary](#)

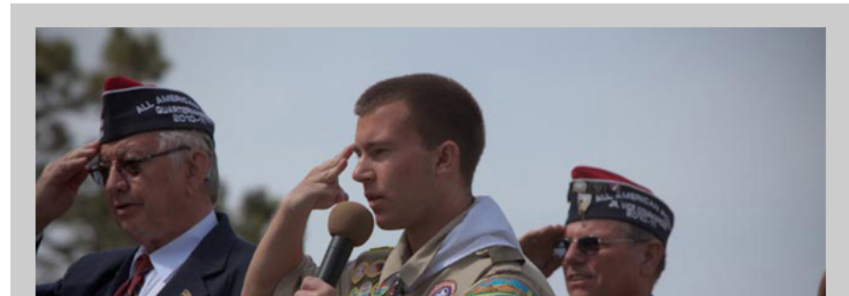
Help Veterans Every Month!

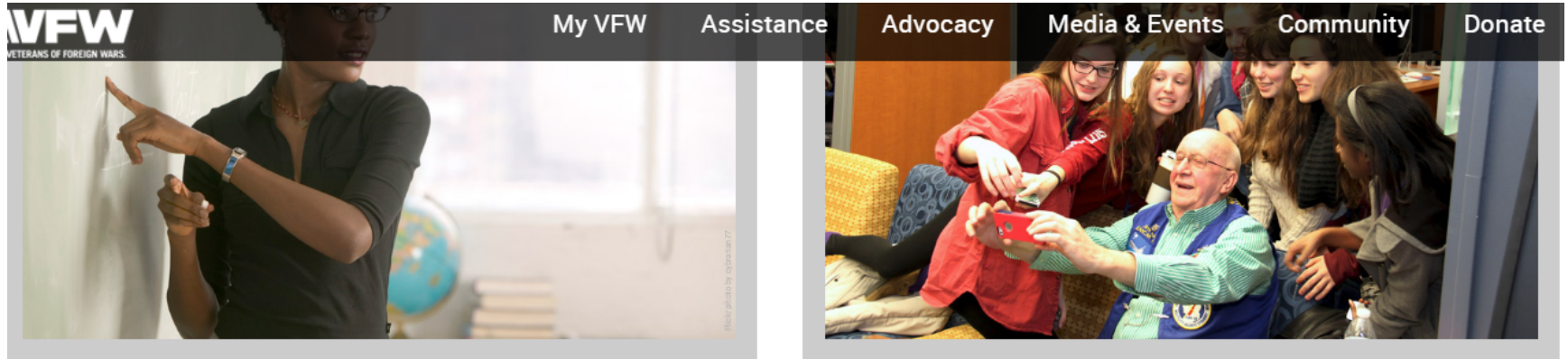
Help us meet the growing needs of seriously wounded veterans now home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan ... and veterans of every generation. Become a Partner in Patriotism Today!

[Join Today](#)

Youth & Education

Working alongside America's youth and instilling a sense of patriotism has always been — and will always be — a VFW priority. Learn more about the VFW's youth and education programs below.



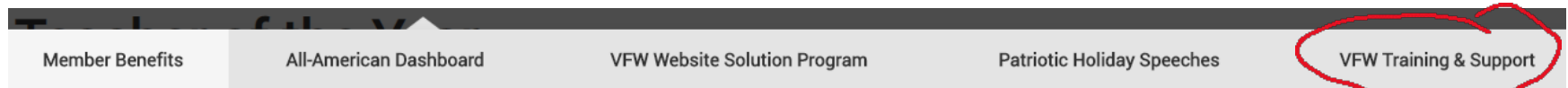


Teacher of the Year

Each year the VFW recognizes three exceptional teachers - one each from the elementary, junior high and high school levels - for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and instill patriotism in their students.

VFW in the Classroom

As combat veterans, we play an important role in educating our nation's youth about the principles and ideals upon which America was founded. VFW members regularly provide students with rare insight into the great sacrifices our service members make to maintain freedom for all of us.



Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America.

The VFW Teacher of the Year award contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Each year, a certified/licensed elementary, junior high and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics can be nominated for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Winners receive:

- A \$1,000 award for professional development expenses.
- A \$1,000 award for his/her school.
- Two award plaques: one for the teacher, the other for his/her school.

Please [review the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and, check back soon for the 2021 nomination form so you can nominate a teacher you know.

Looking to share updated information and materials on VFW's Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher Award programs? Share our [National Scholarship Brochure](#) with the students and educators in your community.

Any Questions Please Contact Me.
bdlittle1020@mail.com