

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF
THE UNITED STATES
FOUNDED 1899**

**WASHINGTON ELM POST NO. 192
ESTABLISHED 1939
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
620 CLIFF STREET
HO-HO-KUS, NJ 07423**

**TAX EXEMPT
N.J.S.A. 54:32B-9(b)(4)
IRC 501c(19)**



**NJ CHARITY REG. NO.
1933600
FED IDENT: 22-2305057
www.vfwpost192-nj.com**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 16, 2013
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Local VFW Post 192 “Patriot’s Pen” Awardee Selected to Represent NJ State VFW at the 2012-13 National Competition

VFW Post Commander Stanley A. Kober of the Washington Elm Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #192 (Ridgewood—Ho-Ho-Kus), announced today that the essay by Victoria Tsai, a 6th grade student at Ho-Ho-Kus Public School who was sponsored by VFW Post 192, was selected to represent the State of NJ VFW at this year’s National VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary “Patriot’s Pen National Essay Competition”, by the judges of the Department of NJ Veterans of Foreign Wars, out of 4,797 essays submitted to the VFW Posts in NJ for this competition. Local VFW Post 192 previously selected Tsai’s essay along with 13 others for submission to VFW District Two (Bergen County level of VFW) for District judging. She was then selected by the District Two judges to represent the District and its 39 Posts in the VFW State competition with the 20 other candidates from the 20 other NJ Counties. Tsai is the third recipient in the last four years who has come from VFW District Two (Bergen County) to become the 1st Place awardee at the State level.

At a recent awards ceremony Tsai received from VFW Post 192, a check for \$100, award certificates from Post 192 and Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan, a booklet of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, and a copy of George Washington’s “Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior” as well as a pamphlet on the “Difference between Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day”. At the VFW State ceremony on February 16, 2013 in the Manville VFW Post 2290, she received a check for \$500, a plaque, and a glass obelisk from the NJ VFW State Commander Warren George and the NJ

Ladies Auxiliary President Kathy Marshall [see photo 1A], as well as the opportunity to compete at the national level for a \$5,000 award and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in early March 2014. Tsai is among more than 126,000 students who participate in the program nationwide.

In addition, the Ho-Ho-Kus Public School, at which Tsai attends in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ, will receive a plaque to be retained for one year, and then replaced with a permanent plaque next Spring 2014. [See photo 4A with left to right, NJ VFW State Commander Warren George, District 2 Ladies Auxiliary President Lauren Thomson, Victoria Tsai, and Stanley Kober, Commander, VFW Post 192 holding the temporary, “rotating” plaque.]

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 had the opportunity to compete in the VFW’s annual essay competition and win thousands of dollars and a trip to be honored at the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Community Service Conference. Students were invited to write in their own words a 300-400 word essay on a VFW pre-determined patriotic theme and for every 15 entries submitted to any VFW Post, one entry could be passed to the next level of competition as recommended by the judges. This year’s theme was, ***“What I Would Tell America’s Founding Fathers”***. This program also is endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

May God Continue to Bless America!

/s/ Stanley A. Kober

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