



**Editors: Officials Rules & Entry Form provided
on pages 3 & 4,
if you want to post on your own website**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Laura Soll (860) 688-4499, cell (860) 833-4466

**STATE'S STUDENTS INVITED TO ENTER ESSAY CONTEST TO HONOR VETERANS,
WITH TOP WINNER TO RIDE IN CONNECTICUT VETERANS DAY PARADE
Deadline for Entries is Friday, October 5**

HARTFORD, CONN., September 20, 2007– **All Connecticut 6th, 7th and 8th graders** are invited to enter a statewide essay contest that salutes the contributions of U.S. veterans. **The Navy League of the United States – Hartford Council** and the **State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs** are sponsoring this special project to encourage middle school students to learn more about the heroism and importance of American servicemen and women throughout our nation's history. A panel of judges will select one (1) top essay winner and two (2) runners-ups. One of the top winner's prizes will be to ride in the parade in a special vehicle. **The contest entry deadline is Friday, October 5, 2007.**

The contest is one of the components of the eighth annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade, to be held in Downtown Hartford, Conn. on **Sunday, November 4** starting at 1 p.m. The parade has become the largest Veterans Day Parade in New England.

Essay contest entry applications are available on-line at both www.ctveteransdayparade.org or at www.ct.gov/ctva, or by calling (860) 844-8501.

To be eligible to enter the 2007 Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest, candidates must:

- Be a 6th, 7th or 8th grade student for the 2007-2008 school year;
- Be a legal resident of the State of Connecticut;
- Limit entries to one entry per person;
- Write an original essay entitled: "Why Should We Honor Veterans?";
- Limit the essay to 500 words or less; and
- All essays must be e-mailed or "snail" mailed **no later than Friday, October 5, 2007 to either:**

E-Mail to:
d.rowles@cox.net

OR

Snail Mail to:
Navy League
P.O. Box 154
West Granby, CT 06090

The entries will be judged by a panel of individuals. The judging criteria is:

- Power of the Message of the Essay;
- Clarity of Thought;
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar; and
- Overall Comprehension of the Topic.

-more-

The First Place Connecticut Veterans Day Essay Contest Winner will:

- Ride with one guest in a special vehicle in the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 4; in Hartford;
- Be honored at a special ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Connecticut State Capitol where he/she will read the winning entry to the audience;
- Receive a U.S. flag that has flown over the Connecticut State Capitol Building; and
- Receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Navy League of the U.S.–Hartford Council.

Two Contest Runners-Up will each be honored at a special ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Connecticut State Capitol where they will read their winning entries to the audience.

Any Connecticut resident who is an active, retired or honorably discharged member of the U.S. Armed Forces including commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves is welcome to march in the November 4 Connecticut Veterans Day Parade. Organizers also seek veterans groups, patriotic commissions, local municipalities, and middle, high school, college and university marching bands and drill teams from throughout the state.

Special parade features will include fly-overs by military aircraft, and a tolling of church bells and Moment of Silence when the parade will pause in observance of veterans who died while serving their country. The marching bands of the University of Connecticut and the University of New Haven will join high school and middle school marching bands and fife & drum corps from all over the state in the procession. Members of the 2005 and 2006 classes of the Connecticut Veterans' Hall of Fame also will march in their own unit.

To register to march or volunteer in the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade, visit

www.ctveteransdayparade.org or call the Information Line at (860) 724-2649 ext. 23.

► **Essay contest entry rules and applications are available on-line at both www.ctveteransdayparade.org or at www.ct.gov/ctva, or by calling (860) 844-8501. The deadline for entries is Friday, October 5, 2007.**

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Essay Contest Rules and Entry Form Follow on Next Pages

Co-Sponsored by: The Navy League of the United States – Hartford Council **AND**
The State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs

CONTEST RULES – DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

The **Navy League of the United States – Hartford Council** and the **State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs** are sponsoring this special essay project to encourage 6th, 7th and 8th graders to learn more about the heroism and importance of American servicemen and women throughout our nation's history.

TO BE ELIGIBLE for the 2007 Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest, candidates must:

- Be a 6th, 7th or 8th grade student for the 2007-2008 school year
- Be a legal resident of the State of Connecticut
- Limit entries to one entry per person
- Write an original essay entitled: "Why Should We Honor Veterans?"
- Limit the essay to 500 words or less
- E-mail or snail-mail a completed entry form with an original essay **no later than Friday, October 5, 2007 to either:**

E-Mail to:
d.rowles@cox.net

OR

Snail Mail to:
Navy League
P.O. Box 154
West Granby, CT 06090

Entries will be judged by a panel of individuals.

JUDGING CRITERIA to be considered for all entries:

- Power of the Message of the Essay
- Clarity of Thought
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
- Overall Comprehension of the Topic

The panel of judges will select one (1) top essay winner and two (2) runners-ups.

The Contest Winner will:

- Ride with one guest in a special vehicle in the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 4; 2007 in Hartford
- Be honored at a special ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Connecticut State Capitol and read his/her winning entry to the audience
- Receive a U.S. flag that has flown over the Connecticut State Capitol Building
- Receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Navy League of the U.S.–Hartford Council

The Two Contest Runners-Up will each:

- Be honored at a special ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Connecticut State Capitol and read their winning entries to the audience

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTEST? Call (860) 844-8501

2007 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Co-Sponsored by: The Navy League of the United States – Hartford Council **AND**
The State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs

ENTRY FORM

▶ DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

▶ Essay entitled “WHY SHOULD WE HONOR VETERANS?”

Please make sure your name and phone number are listed at top of essay

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____

CT, Zip code: _____ Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Grade: (Circle one) 6th grade 7th grade 8th grade

Middle School: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____

State: Connecticut ZIP: _____

Teacher (if involved in your essay project) _____

School Principal/Head Master: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Attached is my one page essay titled, “Why Should We Honor Veterans?”

Thank you for the opportunity to have my essay considered by the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest Judges. I am personally responsible for the content of my original essay. I understand that my essay will not be returned to me and that I will be notified only if I am the Winner or one of the two Runners Ups.

Signature of Entrant

▶ This Entry Form must be submitted with your Original Essay by E-Mail or Snail Mail:

E-Mail to:
d.rowles@cox.net

OR

Snail Mail to:
Navy League
P.O. Box 154
West Granby, CT 06090

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

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