



Brainerd VFW
309 South 6th Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
<https://www.brainerdvfw.org>

2019 Patriot's Pen Competition

Students in grades 6 – 8 compete by writing a 300 – 400 word essay. Winners share \$55,000 in prize money from the National Veterans of Foreign Wars. The theme this year is: **"What Makes America Great"**

Deadline for submission is October 31, 2019.

Details at: <https://www.brainerdvfw.org/pp>

It all starts at the local level with winners going on to district, state and national. The Brainerd VFW contact is Mark Persons, 218-829-1326. teki@mwpersons.com

Brainerd's 2018 first place winner was Vanessa Anderson, Nisswa, MN, 7th grade, Forestview. The theme was, **"Why I Honor the American Flag."**

The American flag isn't just a piece of cloth attached to a pole or a decoration to put outside. It's more than just something to look at during the national anthem. From the symbol of glory and pride to the representation of America, there are so many ways you could think of our flag. I think the American flag is the emblem of the hardships we had to overcome and the bravery we've showed through troublesome times. For example, after so many lives were lost in The Battle of the Alamo, Americans didn't give up. We remembered the bravery of the men who died and kept on fighting for them. In 9/11, the first responders were the heroes, and their bravery saved so many innocent Americans. They risked their own lives to save others. That's what the American flag stands for. From the 13 broad stripes to the 50 bright stars, from the old glory blue to the red and white stripes, the American flag is a piece of our country's history. What other country has had men die just to keep their flag standing? What other country has their anthem written about the glory of their flag? I honor our flag because it represents our struggles and victories for freedom, the democracy of our country, the 50 different states, our independence from Great Britain, our influence over the rest of the world, and our perseverance through tough times. But most of all, I honor the American flag because of the people who worked so hard and sacrificed so much to defend it. Fighting, scheming, planning, and sometimes even dying, these courageous people are the reason our flag is still standing today. They defended our country with hardiness and valor, purity and innocence, vigilance, perseverance and justice, all of which are represented in the colors of our flag. Without all our veterans, living or deceased, young or old, in service or retired, our glorious Star-Spangled Banner would only exist in memories. The American flag is so much more than just another ordinary flag hung on a flag post, flying just beneath the clouds. Our flag is the heart and soul of America.