



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
Pomperaug Regional School District 15  
Dr. Frank H. Sippy, Superintendent of Schools  
203-758-8259 ext. 110

---

### **Region 15 Middle School Students Sweep Area VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest** *Local Students Win Top Prizes in VFW District Two Contest*

*December 16, 2011, Middlebury/Southbury, CT*— Stephanie T. and Brittany M. of Memorial Middle School won first and second place VFW District Two awards in the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen writing contest, and Rochambeau Middle School eighth grader, Erin D., won the district's third prize. This year's writing theme was: **"Are You Proud of Your Country?"**

VFW Post 1607 Senior Vice Commander Jim Fernandes presented the MMS winners with certificates of achievements on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The Rochambeau students were honored in late November.

The first, second, and third place winners will attend the district award dinner in January where the state winner will be named. The winner from each state then competes for the national prizes.

The VFW Patriot's Pen is a nationwide writing 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 eight first place winners from Memorial Middle School are Matt D., Alex K., Stephanie T., Kylie F., Brittany M., Anne T., Kristen S., and Julianne D..

The Rochambeau Middle School students who won first place at the district level are Emma O., Peyton F., Nola I., Lauren O., Erin D., Hannah B., Nicole G., and Caitlin S..

Towns represented by VFW District Two include Middlebury, Southbury, Waterbury, Meriden, Guilford, Madison, among others.

"Like all contests, it's difficult to choose from so many well-written papers," said Mr. John Sieller, MMS Principal, as he addressed the eighth graders. "It is obvious by how many of you did so well, you certainly put forward your best efforts in crafting your essay."