

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Laura Soll, Communications – Connecticut Veterans Day Parade  
(860) 688-4499 or Cell (860) 833-4466

**CONN. STUDENTS INVITED TO ENTER ESSAY CONTEST TO HONOR VETERANS,  
TOP WINNER WILL RIDE IN “CONNECTICUT VETERANS DAY PARADE”**

HARTFORD, CONN., May 19, 2010 – With **Memorial Day only days away, Connecticut students are invited to enter a contest** to express what the heroism and commitment of American veterans mean to them. The top winner of the contest will ride in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 7, 2010.

All Connecticut 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders **may enter the 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.

Entrants will write a **one-page essay entitled “I Want to Say THANK YOU to a Veteran Because...”**

A panel of judges will select one (1) top essay winner and two (2) runners-up. 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 1, 2010.**

The contest is one of the components of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade to be held in Downtown Hartford, Conn. on Sunday, November 7 starting at 1 p.m. The prestigious parade has become one of the largest Veterans Day Parade in the entire U.S.

**Essay contest entry rules and applications are available on-line at both [www.ctveteransdayparade.org](http://www.ctveteransdayparade.org) or at [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva), or by calling (860) 653-4484.**

**To be eligible to enter the 2010 Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest, candidates must:**

- Be a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student for the 2010-2011 school year;
- Be a legal resident of the State of Connecticut;
- Limit entries to one entry per person;
- Write an original essay entitled: **“I Want to Say THANK YOU to a Veteran Because...”**
- Limit the essay to 500 words or less; and
- All essays must be e-mailed or mailed **no later than Friday, October 1, 2010 to either:**

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

**OR**

**Mail to:**  
Navy League  
West Granby, CT 06090

**-More-**

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

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

**The First Place Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest Winner will:**

- Ride with one guest in a special vehicle in the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 7; in Hartford;
- Be honored at a special ceremony in the Connecticut State Capitol's Hall of Flags on Wednesday, November 3 at 4 p.m. 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 the special ceremony in the Connecticut State Capitol's Hall of Flags on Wednesday, November 3 at 4 p.m. 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 7 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. College, high school, and middle school bands, and bagpipe & drum corps and fife & drum corps from all over the state are invited to sign up to march in the procession.

**To register to march or volunteer in the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade, visit [www.ctveteransdayparade.org](http://www.ctveteransdayparade.org) or call the “Parade Info Phone” at (860)-986-7254.**

***Essay contest entry rules and applications are available on-line at both [www.ctveteransdayparade.org](http://www.ctveteransdayparade.org) or at [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva), or by calling (860) 653-4484. The deadline for entries is Friday, October 1, 2010.***

**-End-**

***-Essay Contest Rules and Entry Form Follow on Next Two Pages-***

# 2010 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

**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 1, 2010**

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

### **TO BE ELIGIBLE for the 2010 Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest, candidates must:**

- Be a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student for the 2010-2011 school year
- Be a legal resident of the State of Connecticut
- Limit entries to one entry per person
- Write an original essay entitled:  
    **“I Want to Say THANK YOU to a Veteran Because...”**
- Limit the essay to 500 words or less
- E-mail or mail a completed entry form with an original essay **no later than Friday, October 1, 2010 to either:**

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

**OR**

**Mail to:**  
Navy League  
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-up.**

### **The Contest Winner will:**

- Ride with one guest in a special vehicle in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 7, 2010 in Hartford
- Be honored at a special ceremony and read his/her winning entry to the audience on Wednesday, November 3 at 4 p.m. in the Connecticut State Capitol's Hall of Flags
- 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 and read their winning entries to the audience on Wednesday, November 3 at 4 p.m. in the Connecticut State Capitol's Hall of Flags
- Receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Navy League of the U.S.–Hartford Council

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTEST? Call (860) 653-4484**



# 2010 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 1, 2010**

**▶ Essay entitled “I Want to Say THANK YOU to a Veteran Because...”**

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)      6<sup>th</sup> grade      7<sup>th</sup> grade      8<sup>th</sup> 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 entitled, “I Want to Say THANK YOU to a Veteran Because...”

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- Up.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Entrant

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

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

**OR**

**Mail to:**  
**Navy League**  
**West Granby, CT 06090**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2010**

**QUESTIONS? Call (860) 653-4484**

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