

2024 Virginia History Day State Contest Special Award Winners

NHD PATRICIA BEHRING TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINEES

- **Junior Division:** Jill Shull, Rachel O’Leary, and Nellie Williams, Haycock Elementary
- **Senior Division:** Andrew Abeyounis, Grafton High

BRENTON S. HALSEY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

- Asher Vaughn, Pulaski County Schools

VIRGINIA HISTORY DAY DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- **District 1** – Tristin Burke, Linkhorne Middle
- **District 2** – Melanie Lashinsky, Tazewell County Schools
- **District 3** – Cristina Dunfee, Floyd Elementary School
- **District 4** – Alex Groff, Leslie H. Walton Middle
- **District 5** – Kristine Petersen, Dranesville Elementary
- **District 6** – Kathy Shambo, Larrymore Elementary
- **District 8** – Keenan Entsminger, James River High

BETSY S. BARTON HISTORY DAY SCHOLARSHIP

- “Rachel Carson's Silent Spring: Science, Advocacy, and the Transformation of Public Consciousness” by Seyeon (Gloria) Park, Virginia Episcopal School

BOBBY CHANDLER SENIOR PROJECT AWARD

- “The Moton High School Strike: A Student-Led Turning Point in Public Education and the Civil Rights Movement” by Caroline Bruton, Fluvanna County High

ANNE R. WORRELL JUNIOR PROJECT AWARD

- “AWS vs. WASA: A Turning Point Lawsuit for the Anacostia River” by Colin Li, Longfellow Middle

ENCYCLOPEDIA VIRGINIA ELEMENTARY PROJECT AWARD

- “Barbara Johns: Strike Against Segregation and its Impact” by Amena Ahmed, Al Madina School of Richmond

HOLLINS UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S HISTORY AWARD

- **Junior Division:** “The Seneca Falls Convention: A Brilliant Turning Point in Women's Suffrage” by Savannah Henry, St. John Neumann Academy
- **Senior Division:** “The Women in White: How the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace Campaign Ended Civil War” by Lily Wershbale, Glen Allen High

DIVERSITY RICHMOND AND VIRGINIA PRIDE LGBTQ+ HISTORY AWARD

- “Flossie Wong-Staal: A Turning Point in Molecular Biology, Medicine, and Mankind” by Allison Candelario, Angelina Nair, and Miriam Ahmad, Grafton High

MCV FOUNDATION MEDICAL HISTORY PRIZE

- **Junior Division:** “Penicillin: A Historical Perspective on its Discovery, Impact, and Future Implications” by Alex Cho, Frost Middle
- **Senior Division:** “Polio Pioneers: The Polio Epidemics of the Mid-1900's” by Leah Wadsworth, West Springfield High

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ARTS & LITERATURE AWARD

- **Junior Division:** “Lights, Camera, Action!: The Motion Picture as a Turning Point in History” by Dylan McQuain, Blacksburg New School
- **Senior Division:** “Impressionism: The First Modern Art Movement” by Kathryn Devlin, West Springfield High

VCU CENTER FOR SPORT LEADERSHIP SPORTS HISTORY AWARD

- **Junior Division:** “Beyond the Board: Skateboarding's Influence on Subculture, Urban Planning, and the Olympics” by Grant Sosnowski, Tidewater Collegiate Academy
- **Senior Division:** “Sports Endorsements: The Turning Point of the Game” by Drew Fischer, Noah Holbert, Theo Gandiya, and William McIlhany, Fredericksburg Academy

MACARTHUR MEMORIAL PRIZE

- **Elementary Division:** “The Attack On Pearl Harbor” by Landon Collins, Graham Intermediate
- **Junior Division:** “Kristallnacht” by Izzy Osborne and Ryleigh Dean, Pulaski County Middle
- **Senior Division:** “Changing Norms: How Women Contributed to WWII” by Alice Aramendia, H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program

NATIONAL MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRIZE

- **Junior Division (2nd Place):** “Hurricane Katrina” by Oli Wagoner, Blacksburg Middle
- **Junior Division (1st Place):** “The Battle of Trafalgar” by Callen Ohlandt, Paul Loberg, Theodore Marvin, George Washington Middle
- **Senior Division (1st Place):** “The War of 1812 America's Forgotten Conflict” by Riley Wilson and Tiffany O'Connell, Grafton High

WHITE HOUSE HISTORY PRIZE

- **Elementary Division:** “Cuban Missile Crisis” by Eliza Millard-Raines, Robert S. Payne Elementary
- **Junior Division:** “Gays In Government” by Jillian Branch, Leslie H. Walton Middle
- **Senior Division:** “Modern Dance and Martha Graham: How One Woman Revolutionized Dance” by Batia Seraydarian, Bruton High

GEORGE C. MARSHALL AWARD IN DIPLOMACY

- **Junior Division:** “Tipping Point: Mutually Assured Destruction and the Cuban Missile Crisis” by Eve Smith, Sabot at Stony Point
- **Senior Division:** “Richard Nixon’s Visit to China: The Turning Point in Sino-American Relations that Forever Reshaped the Geopolitical Landscape of the World” by Alicia Fu, Albemarle High

JOHN MARSHALL CENTER PRIZE FOR POLITICAL HISTORY AND CIVICS

- **Junior Division:** “Breaking the Byrd Machine: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 as a Turning Point in VA Politics” by Alex Heaslip, Blacksburg New School
- **Senior Division:** “The 1970s: The Decade that Changed the Death Penalty” by Brynne Hill and Zoe Mozena, Fredericksburg Academy

MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM AWARD IN AVIATION HISTORY

- **Junior Division:** “The Fight for Flights: How the North Atlantic Route Case Changed Commercial Aviation Forever” by Emil Hierman, Joe Vargas, and Ru Bucy, Lylburn Downing Middle
- **Senior Division:** “Willa Brown: A Fight for New Flight” by Samantha McCall and Vivian Yi, Grafton High

NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES AWARD IN NAVAL HISTORY

- **Junior Division:** “USS Monitor: How a ‘Cheesebox on a Raft’ Revolutionized Naval Warfare” by Carter Gill, Haven McKinney, and Roland Thompson, Pulaski County Middle

- **Senior Division:** “Disregarded Saviors: The World War II Navy WAVES Codebreakers and their Lasting Impact” by Natalie Froustet, Cosby High

THE ROBERT RUSSA MOTON MUSEUM AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY PRIZE

- **Junior Division:** “The Little Rock Nine” by Anali Fernandez-Garcia, Leslie H. Walton Middle
- **Senior Division:** “Hidden Heroes: How African American Spies in Virginia Changed the Outcome of the Civil War” by Julia Prior, Cosby High

ALSA ASIAN HISTORY AWARD

- “The Abolition of Sati in India: A Struggle Shaped by Resistant Traditions, Indigenous Reform, and British Colonialism” by Rania Lateef, Charles J. Colgan Sr. High

ALSA LATINO HISTORY AWARD

- “The Controversial Legacy of Juan Peron: Populist or Oppressor?” by Elena Lizarraga, West Springfield High

GEORGE WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP PRIZE

- **Junior Division:** “Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring: Bringing Public Awareness to Pesticide Usage - A Turning Point that Ignited the Environmental Movement” by Julianna Sun, Longfellow Middle
- **Senior Division:** “The Soweto Uprising: A Turning Point in Anti-Apartheid Resistance” by Liah Chung, Douglas S. Freeman High

MARY BICOUVARIS AWARD IN VIRGINIA HISTORY

- **Junior Division:** “Jackson Ward & I-95: Progress or Destruction?” by Julia Jones, Albert Hill Middle
- **Senior Division:** “The People v. Liberta and Women’s Rights in Intimate Partner Violence” by Allison Arnett, Bansari Patel, and Madea Hendrix, Grafton High

VMHC TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AWARD

- **Junior Division:** “Averting Global Catastrophe: Jonathan Shanklin and the Hole in the Ozone Layer” by Olivia Cho, Haycock Elementary
- **Senior Division:** “Amber Alert: How One Girl’s Tragedy Was a Turning Point for Hope” by Xiana Ide, Western Albemarle High

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS HISTORY AWARD

- “Guadalcanal: When America Turned the Tides in the Pacific” by Alex Ford, Lucas Pittman, Brecken Trainum, and Jackson Wheeler, James Blair Middle