



## *MEDIA RELEASE*

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***  
***Photo attached***

### **SMCHS Senior Wins Voice of Democracy Contest**

St. Mary Catholic High School Senior **Christina Porter**, daughter of Greg and Pam Porter of Menasha, earned first place in the Voice of Democracy scholarship program sponsored locally by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2778 in Appleton.

Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students from across the country enter the audio-essay Voice of Democracy competition that was established in 1947 to provide students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to express themselves regarding democratic ideas and principles.

Each entrant was required to submit a 3-5 minute audio essay regarding this year's theme titled "My Vision for America." Porter took first place based on her success in the judging criteria of originality (showing imagination and human interest), content (clear expression of fully developed ideas in an organized manner with smooth transitions) and delivery (speaking in a clear and credible manner).

"I always look forward each year to reading and listening to the student essays," stated Tom Towner, chairman of the Appleton VFW Post 2778 Voice of Democracy Contest. "This year Christina Porter's essay about education and the youth of today was a great vision. One of our country's greatest assets is its youth. Our country will be in good hands in the future when today's youth assume leadership roles."

Porter's submission will next be advanced to the district level, where entries will be evaluated on November 28, 2015 in hopes of advancing to the state, and ultimately, the national level.

VFW Post 2778 will present the award to Christina Porter at their Loyalty Day Dinner Party in March 2016.

**St. Mary Catholic High School** (SMCHS) a regional high school, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](#). The system also includes St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha), as well as St. St. Mary Catholic Middle School in Neenah. SMCHS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.

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