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## FRA Americanism Essay Contest Invites Student Views on Voting

As the 2012 elections approach, the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) invites students in grades 7 through 12 to share their perspective on voting as part of the Association's annual Americanism Essay Contest. Students are asked to submit essays of 350 words or less on this year's theme: What My Vote Will Mean to Me. Students will be judged at the local, regional and national level, where entrants will compete for cash prizes of \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000 in each grade level. The contest's Grand National prize is a trip for the winner and a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., where they will visit the White House, Supreme Court and Capitol Hill to meet his/her elected officials.

"Our goal is to promote a spirit of Americanism and patriotism among our nation's young people," explains Jim Campbell, chairman of FRA's National Americanism-Patriotism Committee. "The contest not only promotes national pride, it offers an opportunity for students to express themselves in writing. Many teachers offer the FRA Essay Contest as a creative writing or Social Studies assignment, and we hope parents and teachers will encourage their students to enter."

Contest entries must be postmarked by December 1, 2012 and must be sponsored by an FRA member in good standing or by a currently chartered FRA branch or Auxiliary unit. (A list of sponsoring branches and complete contest rules are available at <a href="www.fra.org/essay">www.fra.org/essay</a>.) FRA branches received 3,495 entries last year, including submissions from students who are homeschooled. Local branches forward their best entries to the regional level and the best of those are considered for national recognition. In addition to the national awards, a variety of prizes and recognition certificates are awarded at the branch and regional levels.

## **About FRA**

FRA is a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization representing the interests of current and former enlisted personnel of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. As the collective voice for all Sea Service personnel since 1924, FRA speaks on behalf of its members on Capitol Hill. There is no law protecting military benefits, so FRA is here to stand guard.

FRA also sponsors an Education Foundation that awards scholarships to deserving college students and is a recognized charity in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC Code #80236). For more information on the FRA Education Foundation, visit www.fra.org/foundation.

To learn more about FRA, visit <u>www.fra.org</u>; follow us on Twitter at <u>@FRAHQ</u>; or Like us on Facebook at www.fra.org/fb.