

District 3 Voice of Democracy Winner **Shaylene E. Abraham**
sponsored by McKenzie-Webster Post 790, Barre Vermont

I have been inspired by the stories and passions of veterans my entire life. Due to my mother's position working at the VFW, I have been honored to be around them. I was especially inspired by one specific veteran. He has been friends with my family for many years, and I was able to hear so many of his stories from Vietnam. I was specifically interested in how they were treated after coming home, and what they did for their brothers in arms following that event. How they were always there for them. I wrote this essay in hope to bring more honor to those who were treated badly for fighting for our country. I would enjoy for our future actions to be more open minded, and less cruel for the hard working veterans that have risked their lives for some people that don't deserve them.

As in advance, I hope to become a medical examiner. I was curious about this topic due to my father, who works as a Forensic Chemist. He is one of the many people that I aspire to be like as I grow and further my education. I have been through many hardships and loss in my life, which made me think of the more morbid lifestyle. It's not every day that a young girl wishes to do autopsies for her future. I am thankful for this opportunity that was introduced to me by my mother and the veterans I have grown up with.