

## 2024 James H. Parke Memorial Scholarships

\$20,000	Zachary Gardner	Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks Fayetteville, Arkansas
\$5,000	Anushka Kagade	W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Health Care System Salisbury, North Carolina
\$2,000	Diya Shah	W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Health Care System Salisbury, North Carolina
\$2,000	Jayedn Griffin	W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Health Care System Salisbury, North Carolina
\$2,000	Katrina Campbell	VA St. Louis Health Care System St. Louis, Missouri

## James H. Parke Summer Scholarships

\$500	Denver Nelson	Fargo VA Health Care System Fargo, North Dakota
\$500	Jai Patel	VA St. Louis Health Care System St. Louis, Missouri
\$500	Jasmine David	W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Health Care System Salisbury, North Carolina
\$500	John Crites	VA St. Louis Health Care System St. Louis, Missouri
\$500	Nathan Barber	VA Loma Linda Healthcare System Loma Linda, California
\$500	Shivani Patel	William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center Columbia, South Carolina
\$500	Vinayak Kumar Duggal	W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Health Care System Salisbury, North Carolina
\$500	Vincent Sharp	Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks Fayetteville, Arkansas

# VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

## James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award Luncheon



Zachary Gardner  
\$20,000 Scholarship Recipient

May 15, 2024  
Hyatt Regency at the Arch, St. Louis, Missouri

## Zachary Gardner

Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

"Veterans are never tenuous in defending our democracy because they espouse and live and breathe the values and vision of our founding fathers. Their patriotism, courage, strength, and sacrifice have kept us safe from evil and hatred that threatens us. I am thankful for them and honored to volunteer. Veterans have fought and sacrificed for the ideals enshrined in our Constitution, our democracy, and especially to ensure our freedom from tyranny.

Volunteering has shown me their passion to ensure that nothing infringes on our Constitutional rights because those belong to us. Our Veterans know the truth in words once shared by President Reagan. 'Freedom is not ours by inheritance, it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again'. Will my generation see another world war? Those who have seen war, pray not.

Volunteering for Veterans has shown me that under no circumstances has freedom ever been free because freedom arrives at the sacrifice of lives. Our Veterans, the most selfless and patriotic individuals in American history, put themselves, their families, and their careers behind them, to put a nation before them. The United States of America sits atop a pinnacle because of our Veterans. We must care for them. Without them or without honoring them, we are a cowardly representation of a country. We must put our differences aside. We must keep our republic because it is our nation's greatest attribute.

Working at the cemetery has taught me every headstone tells a story, but we can make their stories better by listening and learning before they are gone. Volunteering has shown me the country I love and the leader I want to be. I plan to study business, economics, and finance before going to law school. Volunteering has shown me the importance of gaining a solid understanding of American History, the intricacies of our Constitution, and the branches of government. As an attorney, I will help ensure Veterans have the representation they deserve and that VA, healthcare, and legislation are top priorities. Although the country I grew up in is divided over many issues, I choose to believe the contributions of my generation and our abilities will help overcome the division our nation is experiencing. I am committed to doing my part to ensure we live in a world that unites us to be the greatness our founding fathers intended and the magnum opus our Veterans fought for."

## Program

Welcome	John P. Brown, III, President, James H. Parke Memorial Fund
Invocation	Richard More, Chief Chaplain VA St. Louis Health Care System
Pledge of Allegiance	Tom Richardson VFW Department of IL, District 4
Luncheon	Music by: Eric Burg VA St. Louis Health Care System
Video Presentation	Zachary Gardner
Presentation of Award	John P. Brown, III
Remarks	Katrina Campbell Jai Patel John Crites
Acceptance of Donations	John P. Brown, III

## Parke Fund Board

**President** - John P. Brown, III, AMVETS

**Vice President** - John Kleindienst, Disabled American Veterans

**Treasurer** - Ann Glende, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary

**Secretary** - Marie Rorrio, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary

**Members:**

Patricia Kranzow, American Legion Auxiliary

Anne Parker, Blue Star Mothers of America