

MEMORIAL DAY ESSAY CONTEST

open to Tipp City & Vandalia, OH area High School Students



AWARDS



\$500—FIRST Place

\$300—1st Runner-Up

\$200—2nd Runner-Up

A TOTAL OF 3 PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2016

OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS on reverse



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11900 N. Dixie Dr.
Tipp City, OH 45371
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2016 Essay Contest Announcement & Official Rules

Blessing-Zerkle Funeral Home in Tipp City, Ohio announces its first annual Memorial Day Youth Essay Contest. The contest is open to Tipp City and Vandalia, Ohio area high school students. The purpose of the contest is to create an educational awareness involving the young people in Tipp City and Vandalia, Ohio communities so that they can learn more about the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Official Rules

1. **Eligibility:** Entrants must be high school students enrolled in the Tipp City and Vandalia, Ohio area School Districts. Entries from private, charter and home schools will also be accepted.

2. **Format:** Entries must be presented in the format of a **Personal Essay**, between 500-525 words, using a double-spaced 12-point font and must include a bibliography (not included in the word count).

3. **Topic:** *"The True Meaning of Memorial Day". Students are encouraged to discuss the essay theme with teachers, parents and friends. The essay should be positive and clearly focused on the theme. Teachers and parents may check essays, but the content of the essay must be that of the student.*

4. **Research:** Research is essential in creating a quality essay. Please cite library resources, Web URLs with access dates, and personal interviews.

5. **Bibliography:** The bibliography must cite at least two references. Entries that do not include a bibliography will be disqualified.

6. **Essay Entries:** Must be submitted and received between April 1 and April 30, 2016. Entries cannot be acknowledged or returned, and they become the property of Blessing-Zerkle Funeral Home. Essays should be mailed or delivered to: Blessing-Zerkle Funeral Home, Attn: Trent Zerkle, 11900 North Dixie Drive, Tipp City, OH 45371. Entries must be accompanied by a 3x5 index card, attached but not stapled to essay containing the following information: contestant's name, address, phone number, student ID number, and name of parent/guardian who will accompany contestant at the related Essay Contest Awards Ceremony, taking place at 6:00 pm on Friday, May 20, 2016 at Blessing-Zerkle Funeral Home located at 11900 North Dixie Drive, Tipp City, OH 45371.

7. **Evaluation Process:** Winning essays will be selected on the following basis:

>25 points—Originality and creativity

>25 points—Compliance with the assigned topic

>20 points—Factual accuracy

>15 points—Grammar and organization of content

>15 points—Scope of research

8. **Awards:** \$500 will be awarded to one high school first place winner; \$300 will be awarded to one first place runner-up and \$200 will be awarded to one second place runner-up. Each winner and his/her parent/guardian must be present to receive their prize.

Final judging and selection of winners will be made by a committee selected by Blessing-Zerkle Funeral Home. Decision of judges are final. Results will be announced at the May 20, 2016 Essay Contest Awards Ceremony taking place at 6:00 pm at Blessing-Zerkle Funeral Home located at 11900 North Dixie Drive, Tipp City, OH 45371. Refreshments will follow. Winning essays will be featured on the Blessing-Zerkle Funeral Home website, social media page and other related print and electronic media.

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