

**Tracy Teacher Receives VFW's National Education Award**  
*Martin will be honored during the VFW's 120th National Convention in July*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (March 26, 2019)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is pleased to announce Anne Martin, a seventh-grade language arts and social studies teacher at Williams Middle School in Tracy, Calif., has been selected for its 2019 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award at the middle school level. Martin was selected because over her 24-year career, she has used her experience as a Gold Star family member to help her students and community better understand the sacrifices made by America's military and veteran families. Martin's work includes organizing school-wide campaigns to collect donations and thank you letters for deployed troops, and coordinating the school's annual Patriot Day celebration which includes a patriotic door-decorating contest. She also oversees the school's Associated Student Body elections, helping students understand and navigate the democratic process. VFW Post 1537 in Tracy, Calif., sponsored Martin. "Students who are lucky enough to have teachers like Anne develop a deep sense of patriotism and understand the values and freedoms upon which our nation was founded," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "The VFW is honored to recognize the vital role America's educators play in nurturing and encouraging the civic-minded leaders of tomorrow." Co-sponsored by past VFW National Commander John Smart and retired VFW Quartermaster General Larry Maher, the [Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award](#) was established in 1999 to recognize three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students. Each of the three national recipients will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Orlando, Fla., where they will each be presented with a \$1,000 award for professional development and \$1,000 for their school during the 120th VFW National Convention, July 20-24.