

# Meredith Clark named National Samsung American Legion Scholar

Green Lake High School senior Meredith Clark has been selected as one of 10 National Samsung American Legion Scholars, a prestigious honor awarded to exceptional high school students across the country.

Clark and her fellow recipients were invited to attend the recognition event at the American Legion’s annual Washington Conference, held in Washington, D.C., from February 22–26, 2025.

During her time in the nation’s capital, Clark had the opportunity to meet and network with eight of the other National Samsung American Legion Scholars who attended. She also engaged with Congressional representatives and leaders of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, gaining invaluable insight into national service and leadership.

On the last day of the group’s visit to D.C., while touring the U.S. Capitol and Supreme Court buildings, Clark was able to meet Wisconsin’s U.S. Senator Ron Johnson (R) and sit in on a Senate session.

These top 10 National Scholar recipients were selected by the American Legion’s Committee on Youth Education during the organization’s annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis the week of October 7, 2024. The recipients earned the award based on several criteria, including participation in the 2024 session of American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State, and being a direct descendant of a wartime Veteran eligible for American Legion membership.

The 10 National Scholars including the following from each of the five regions.

- Central Region: Brynn Burton (IN) and Mer-

- edith Clark (WI)
- Midwest Region: Jessica Jensen (MN) and Lincoln Brown (CO)
- Northeast Region: Evan Fitzpatrick (MA) and Nathaniel Goldschmidt (CT)
- Southeast Region: Andrew Behrmann (SC) and Oliver Burke (TX)
- Western Region: Eli Pugliese (CA) and Claire Frank (OR)

Clark is especially honored to be the great-granddaughter of the late CPL Leonard R. Reetz, who served in the U.S. Army’s 45th Division, 700th Ordnance Maintenance Company. From September 1950 to September 1952, he was stationed in Japan during the Korean War, earning the Army Occupation Medal, Korean Bronze Service Star, and United Nations Service Medal.

He continued to serve in the Army Reserves until his honorable discharge in February 1957.

Clark expressed her gratitude to the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit 306 in Green Lake for sponsoring her participation in Badger Girls State last summer.

Said Clark, “Without their support, I would not have had the chance to meet lifelong friends or be honored as a National Samsung American Legion Scholar in Washington, D.C.”

Her selection as a National Samsung American Legion Scholar highlights Clark’s outstanding leadership, academic excellence, and commitment to service. As she prepares for the next chapter of her education, this recognition will undoubtedly serve as a cornerstone for her future endeavors.



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**ABOVE: GREEN LAKE HIGH SCHOOL senior Meredith Clark (center), along with her father, Justin Clark (right), meets with Wisconsin’s U.S. Senator Ron Johnson (left) during the American Legion’s annual Washington Conference in Washington, D.C., in late February.**

**BELOW: GREEN LAKE HIGH SCHOOL’S Meredith Clark (front row right) is one of 10 National Samsung American Legion Scholars, which is an honor presented to exceptional high school students across the country.**



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**MEREDITH CLARK VISITS the National Mall, with the Washington Monument in the background during her recent trip to Washington, D.C. to be recognized at the American Legion’s annual Washington Conference, February 22–26.**

