

WAYNE E. RICHARDS AWARD

2026-2027

The Wayne E. Richards Award will be presented to an individual Kansas VFW member who has been an active VFW member for several years in the Post, District or Department.

Qualifications and nominating forms will be emailed the latter part of February and completed forms must be received at Department Headquarters no later than the deadline on the form.

The award will be presented at the Department Convention banquet.

The Wayne E. Richards award, this year's winner will be the 63rd, was started by the encouragement of his family to honor past National Commander in Chief Wayne E. Richards, 1953-54, the first Commander-in-Chief from Kansas. There have been three Chiefs from Kansas. They were Wayne E. Richards, John Stang, and Norman Staab. The Wayne E. Richards family wanted an award to go to a Kansas VFW member whom had shown exemplary service over a significant period of time. The first Wayne E. Richards award winner was Louis Rosenberg in 1964. The sixth Wayne E. Richards award winner was Elmer L. Jenkins.

The work for these awards can be done at the Post, District, or Department levels or a combination of two or all three. There have been 12 double winners with Clyde Hatcher being the first and Gerald Marvin being the latest.

For your convenience, a list is provided of previous winners.

Louis Rosenberg	Harley Whisnant	Bernard Holt	Leon Bortz	*Fred Weigel
Gen Joe Nickell	Ewald Behnke	Charles E. Cook	*Lewie Cooper	Phil Irby
Merle Jordan	G. L. Belding	*Darrell Bencken	Robert Petterson	Paul Saliger
Bill Fribley	Francis Harshaw	Denny Lawson	Lester Wenndt	Michael Holland
Marion T Burton	James Chism	John Fridley	Charley Shoemaker	*Gerald Marvin
Elmer Jenkins	Louis Warsinski	Charles Cloud	Leslie Thompson	Lee Hursey
Floyd McGehe	Harry M. Watkins	Jake Long	Gerald Mangold	Clyde Lindsey
Robert Dole	*Jay W. Ritchie	Harry Nelson	Norman Gentry	
Austin Wells	Harold Rhea	*Roger Sellers	*John Berkley	
John W. Bossler	Kenneth Kirby	Robert Sander	Danny Puckett	
George T. Hansen	George Muller	Norman Bottger	J.T. Plummer	
*Clyde H. Hatcher	*Lawrence Tholen	John Shlichting	Jackie Barnes	
Ben Linenberger	*Robert R. Whipple	*Barney Aldridge	*Robin Ray	
Ronald Huebert	Vernon McVey	Orlin Wagner	Bobby Cox	