



VFW Post 9676 has partnered on several occasions with Cadets from both Los Lunas High School Army Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp (JROTC) and Valencia High School Army JROTC. Both these units are well trained and well lead by outstanding Officers, Cpt. Eric Hedlund and Lt. Col. Steve Keppler respectively. VFW Post 9676 and Cadets from both these JROTC units have worked cooperatively to assist the Los Lunas Invested in Veterans Events, Inc. (L.I.V.E.) organization during their two annual events – “*The Believe in Heroes Memorial Run*” and the Veterans Day Celebration at the Daniel D. Fernandez Memorial Park.

Every year Cpt. Hedlund and Lt. Col. Keppler select the most outstanding Cadets from their respective units and they provide the VFW Post 9676 Commander with the names. The VFW Post Commander is then invited to each of the awards ceremonies and presents these outstanding Cadets with the VFW JROTC Recognition Certificate and Medal. Both Hedlund and Keppler have indicated that it is usually not easy to identify the most worthy Cadets to receive this recognition.

In years past, the Cadets from both schools have participated in the VFW's \$3.0 million Voice of Democracy (VOD) Essay Scholarship Competitions. Cadets and other high school students compete 1<sup>st</sup> at the Post level, then the District level, Department (State) level and finally the National level. Scholarship are awarded at each level. The winner at the National level receives a free trip, with one parent, to Washington, D.C. and a \$30,000 scholarship.

Because we know that these Cadets represent our future military leaders, we are always ready to interact with them in any way that we can. Thank you Cpt. Hedlund and Lt. Col. Keppler for allowing us to be a small part of their preparation for future military service

Visit the Link Below:

### **Los Lunas High School Army JROTC**

[http://loslunasllhs.ss13.sharpschool.com/students/activities/j\\_r\\_o\\_t\\_c](http://loslunasllhs.ss13.sharpschool.com/students/activities/j_r_o_t_c)

[https://www.facebook.com/Los-Lunas-High-Army-Jrotc-150705531673587/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Los-Lunas-High-Army-Jrotc-150705531673587/?ref=page_internal)

[http://www.news-bulletin.com/news/features/valencia-views-july/collection\\_759aed38-7ef2-11e8-85f8-f35b706dc7d0.html#1](http://www.news-bulletin.com/news/features/valencia-views-july/collection_759aed38-7ef2-11e8-85f8-f35b706dc7d0.html#1)

### **Valencia High School Army JROTC**

<https://www.facebook.com/VhsJaguarBattalion/>

<https://www.hometownstation.com/santa-clarita-news/education/william-s-hart-union-school-district/valencia-high-jrotc-places-third-in-national-academic-competition-285212>