

Ian Chung Is 2023 State Oratorical Champ

ALBANY — Ian Chung, a Junior at Vestal Senior High School in Vestal, New York, is The American Legion New York State Oratorical Champion for 2023, Oratorical Chairman Anthony Paternostro announced.



(Left to Right) Thomas Fernandez, Mary Kennedy, Department Oratorical Chair Anthony Paternostro, Department Commander David R. Riley, Sr., Joshua Zampella, 2023 Department Champion Ian Chung, London Beachy, S.A.L. Commandder Timothy Van Patten II

This year's contest was conducted on March 4, 2023, at the Crown Plaza-Desmond Hotel, Albany, New York. Even with the threat of a snowstorm, those in attendance were witnessed to five magnificent orators.

Ian Chung is this year's Department Champion wines a \$6,000.00 Scholarship. He competed against four other finalists from a cross section of the state in the 86th Annual American Legion Department of New York Oratorical Contest. He was sponsored by the American Legion North-East Post 1645, Broome County, 6th District, and Zone 4. Other contestants were Mary Kennedy, Suffolk County, 10th District, Zone 2, and sponsored by the Greenlawn Post 1244 who won a \$4,000.00 Scholarship; London Beachy, Franklin County, 4th District, Zone 3, and sponsored by the Brushton-Moira Post 939 who won a \$2,500.00 Scholarship; Joshua Zampella, Monroe County, District 7th, Zone 5, and sponsored by the Eike-Jordan-Bauer Post 1501; and Thomas Fernandez, Rockland County, District 9th, Zone 1, and sponsored by the William DeBevoise, Jr. Post 1682 both winning a \$2,000.00 Scholarship each.