



## **THE FRIENDS OF THE FRANK MURPHY MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

announce

## **THE FRANK MURPHY ESSAY CONTEST 2023**

for **HURON, SANILAC, AND TUSCOLA COUNTIES**

### **CONTEST BACKGROUND**

Frank Murphy is a local hero. He was born and raised in Harbor Beach, Michigan, and frequently returned home throughout his life. A graduate of the University of Michigan, his notable career included terms as mayor of Detroit and governor of Michigan. Additionally, he served in World War I, reaching the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army. He was the U.S. Attorney General in 1940 when he was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and he served on the bench until his death in 1949. During his political and judicial tenures, Justice Murphy fought relentlessly for those without a voice. As he wrote in one of his Supreme Court decisions, “The law knows no finer hour than when it cuts through formal concepts and transitory emotions to protect unpopular citizens against discrimination and persecution.”

With this annual writing contest, we hope to broaden awareness of Frank Murphy’s contributions to our nation through his service and to encourage our young citizens to consider the elements of a life well-lived in our great democracy. Each year, we will explore an aspect of Frank Murphy’s career and consider how Michigan values impacted on his courageous positions in defense of core democratic values. Students currently enrolled in their junior year of high school in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties are eligible to participate.

### **CONTEST TOPIC 2023**

The City of Harbor Beach maintains a small museum dedicated to the memory of Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy. Across Michigan and indeed the nation, residents in other cities, towns, and villages also support museums and monuments to remember famous residents or moments from our history.

Why is it important that memorials like the Frank Murphy Memorial Museum continue to be maintained and nurtured?

What value do they hold for today’s society?

## AWARDS

Through generous gifts of The Friends of the Frank Murphy Memorial Museum, top essayists will receive cash prizes. A single grand-prize winner will be chosen. That student will receive a certificate and a cash prize of \$500. The winner's name will be inscribed on a plaque to be permanently displayed at the Frank Murphy Memorial Museum in Harbor Beach. In addition, second and third-place runner-up essayists will receive cash prizes of \$250 and \$100.

## CONTEST POLICIES

Students must currently be enrolled in the 11th grade in Huron, Sanilac, or Tuscola County.

All entries must be received by midnight, **Friday, December 1, 2023.**

Entries must be submitted via email to [FrankMurphyEssayContest@gmail.com](mailto:FrankMurphyEssayContest@gmail.com). The essay must be attached as a PDF file.

The essay must include a cover page with the following information:

- Title
- Word Count (500-850 words)
- Author's Name
- Teacher's Name
- School Name

These identifiers should appear **ONLY** on the cover page. Do **NOT** include any identifying information on the other pages of the essay.

Additionally, the cover page **MUST** include the following certification:

**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORSHIP: I certify that I am the sole author of this essay. I have cited all sources from which I used data, ideas, or words, either quoted directly or paraphrased. I also certify that this essay was prepared by me specifically for this essay contest and that no portion has been used for other contests or courses.**

**Electronic Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submissions that do not include the required cover page information will be discarded.**

## CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Essay judges will include a local area retired educator, a local area judge, and Frank Murphy's biographer.

### CONTENT (60%)

Winning essays will demonstrate understanding of the core democratic values exemplified by the life of Justice Frank Murphy. They will communicate the courage and strength involved in maintaining integrity in the face of political winds, and they will draw conclusions about the parallels between the past and the present world in which the writer lives. Such essays will include the elements of sound argumentation, providing a clear central claim, drawing on well-researched and reliable supporting evidence, and providing critical analysis and reasoning that connects the evidence to the overall theme.

## **PRESENTATION (40%)**

A winning essay will exemplify strong writing skills, demonstrating effective control of the language. They will have an interesting introduction, a logical progression of ideas and argumentation, and a satisfactory conclusion. Varied sentence structure and interesting word choice, as well as good command of grammar and spelling conventions will be considered.

Entries will be disqualified if they:

- Do not meet or exceed the required word count;
- Are off topic;
- Do not meet the deadline;
- Are not the student's original work.

*The applicant understands that he/she may be required to sign a waiver giving the Friends of Frank Murphy the right and permission to use, copy, distribute, broadcast, and display the essay that the applicant has submitted. The applicant also understands that such permission may be a condition to the award of any prize.*

## **RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS**

The Frank Murphy Essay Contest encourages our area high school teachers to take this opportunity to introduce our teens to the story of Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy and to illuminate the history that his life reveals. We are hopeful that this year's contest topic will spark lessons on the workings of the Supreme Court and reveal the bravery shown by one of our own, Harbor Beach native Frank Murphy.

We'd like to encourage all teachers and students to consider a visit to the Frank Murphy Memorial Museum in Harbor Beach. Perhaps the essay contest will serve as impetus to plan a field trip for the entire class.

Additionally, Greg Zipes, a biographer with an award-winning book on Frank Murphy, is willing to provide a twenty-minute presentation on Frank Murphy to high school classrooms. This presentation can be arranged through The Friends of the Frank Murphy Memorial Museum or by contacting the author directly at [gzipes2@gmail.com](mailto:gzipes2@gmail.com).

There are numerous resources on Frank Murphy. Here are a few teachers might use when working with students:

The Frank Murphy Memorial Museum  
142 S. Huron Avenue  
Harbor Beach, MI 48441  
Contact: Lori Murawske, Docent  
989-712-0909

Fred Korematsu's biography. Justice Murphy wrote a dissenting opinion in the 1944 Supreme Court decision:  
<https://korematsumuseum.org/freds-story/>

Korematsu Day Declaration by Governor Whitmer in January 2021:  
[https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499\\_90639-548456--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90639-548456--,00.html)

Korematsu Institute Educational Resources:  
<https://korematsumuseum.org/education/>

Michigan Legal Milestone Marker at the Frank Murphy Memorial Museum:  
[https://www.michbar.org/programs/milestone/milestones\\_murphysdissent](https://www.michbar.org/programs/milestone/milestones_murphysdissent)