

Vanessa Munson Crowned Miss Washington 2023

Miss Washington *Scholarship Organization*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vanessa Munson, Miss Clark County and Army HR Specialist was crowned Miss Washington 2023 on July 1st at Capital High School Performing Arts Center.

OLYMPIA, WA (July 1, 2023) – Miss Washington Week kicked off Sunday, June 25th with 24 delegates from across the state competing for over \$200,000 in scholarships, cash and sponsorships. After three days of competition including private interview, health and fitness, talent and evening gown, Vanessa Munson of Clark County was crowned on Saturday, July 1st before a sold-out audience at Capital High School Performing Arts Center in Olympia. Miss Pierce County, Amber Pike was named 1st Runner Up, with Miss Rainier Austin Douglas, Miss Seattle JJ Brown, and Miss Eastside Gabriella Sturgill placing 2nd, 3rd and 4th Runner Up, respectively.

Miss Washington 2023 will compete for the title of Miss America 2024 next January.

Originally from Battle Ground, WA, Sergeant Munson is currently a U.S. Army Human Resource Specialist, stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McCord. She is also a Senior at American Military University pursuing a bachelor's degree in business management with a minor in Marketing. She'll use her \$19,000+ in scholarships awarded in 2023 to complete a master's degree in business administration and become a Management and Program Analyst for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Vanessa performed a jazz dance for the talent portion of competition. As a woman with a disability (she wears a hearing aid), her community service initiative is titled "Beauty and Beyond: What is your Beautiful?" – a community service initiative targeted to eradicate the beauty standards in today's society. Her mission is to empower young women and men to focus on being self-confident through skill-building, goal setting, motivation, and kindness. She has partnered with GirlsINC, Dress for Success Seattle, and speaks in various school districts.

To learn more about the Miss Washington Scholarship Organization, as well as our affiliated local preliminary organizations, visit www.misswashington.org. Learn more about the Teen program at www.misswashingtonteen.org

ABOUT THE MISS WASHINGTON SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION:

The Miss Washington Scholarship Organization, a not-for-profit corporation, is based in Puyallup, Washington. It is committed to providing the young women of Washington State with the opportunity to enhance their personal and vocational development through scholarship programs and community service. The Miss Washington Scholarship Organization conducts the Miss Washington's Teen and Miss Washington competitions, official preliminaries to Miss America's Teen and the Miss America Competitions.

ABOUT THE MISS AMERICA ORGANIZATION:

The Miss America Organization is one of the most recognizable household names in America working to empower young women through education and service. MAO is comprised of 51 licensed state organizations, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia and hundreds of licensed local preliminaries. The organization awards more than five million dollars in cash scholarships each year and millions more in-kind per year through national, state, and local programs.