MERRILL: FIFTH GRADERS WRITE ABOUT HISTORICAL EVENTS AND INVENTIONS IN CONNECTICUT

SECRETARY OF THE STATE HONORS STUDENTS FROM ACROSS CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR WINNING ESSAYS

Hartford: Surrounded by 15 aspiring writers, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today presented awards to the winners of her office’s 19th Annual Essay Contest at a ceremony in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol. More than 60 fifth graders from schools across Connecticut submitted essays this year. Students were asked to discuss an important event or invention from Connecticut that has significantly affected the history of our state. They were asked to answer the question “How is the impact of this event or invention still felt today?”

“Connecticut is a small state, yet we have had an extraordinary number of innovations in science and industry, not to mention the dozens of historically impactful events that have happened here,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “I am very impressed with these students and the grasp they have on Connecticut’s history. They also seem to understand that they too can one day play an important part in history, or create some fantastic invention that can save or improve lives all over the world. There is no telling what kind of inspiring ideas may flow from this writing exercise that may one day themselves make a huge difference in the lifetime of these young writers.”

A set of winning essays was selected from four of Connecticut’s five congressional districts. Each set consisted of a 1st place winner, some having a 2nd and 3rd place winner, along with one or two students who received honorable mention. Every student honored at today’s event received a gift certificate from Barnes & Noble bookstore.

2014 Essay Contest Winners

The essay contest winners are listed below:
Congressional District 1
1st Place, Sabria Roggendorf, Whiting Lane School, West Hartford
2nd Place, Maheer Syed Hussain, Aiken Elementary School, West Hartford
3rd Place, Laurel A. Thomas, Aiken Elementary School, West Hartford
Honorable Mention, Israel Henriques, Aiken Elementary School, West Hartford

Congressional District 2
1st Place, Julia Gerrish, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, East Haddam
2nd Place, Aidan Behilo, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, East Haddam
3rd Place, Lenora Ballek, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, East Haddam
Honorable Mention, Molly Butremovic, North Stonington Elementary School, North Stonington
Honorable Mention, Cailey Fay, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, East Haddam

Congressional District 3
1st Place, Ahmed Khan, Bear Path School, Hamden

Congressional District 5
1st Place, Christopher Aube, Thompson Brook School, Avon
2nd Place, Ian Belles, Whisconier Middle School, Brookfield
3rd Place, Brianna Pelchar, Har-bur Middle School, Burlington
Honorable Mention, Ashley Buick, Goshen Center School, Goshen
Honorable Mention, Lexah Caraluzzi, Whisconier Middle School, Brookfield

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