

Senator John Loudon Announces Bill of Rights Essay Contest Winners

Winning Essayists Earn College Scholarships

ST. LOUIS – Senator John Loudon, R-Ballwin, today announced the winners of the Senator’s second annual Bill of Rights essay contest.

“Choosing winning entries was extremely difficult as all the submissions are well-written and worthy of recognition,” Sen. Loudon said. “Every young man and woman participating in this year’s event deserves credit for expending the effort to research, organize and write an essay on the important topic of the basic freedoms established by our country’s founders. I know they all will continue studying our country’s history and taking part in various civic and community responsibilities.”

Ratified on the 15th of December, 1791, the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution are collectively known as the Bill of Rights. In the 2002 legislative session, Senator Loudon advanced legislation establishing each December 15th as Bill of Rights day in Missouri. In 2003, Senator Loudon launched the inaugural Bill of Rights essay contest.

Some 30 students representing public, private and home schools of junior and senior age in the 7th Senatorial District took part in this year’s essay contest, which was sponsored by the Missouri Bar Association, the Missouri Press Association and the Missouri Broadcasters Association. Students this year were asked to write between 350 and 500 words on which of the first 10 amendments they felt is most important to our nation.

Earning the top spot and a \$500 scholarship is Samia Javed of Parkway West High School. Second place honors and a \$250 scholarship go to Janet Brookman, a home schooled student from Ballwin. Greg Ayers of Westminster Christian Academy and Ben Cross, a student at Marquette High School, each earned \$100 scholarships by tying for third place. The civics and governance writers were recognized for their efforts during a reception and awards ceremony in St. Louis on July 27.

“Congratulations to our essay winners and thanks to the sponsors, judges and authors for making another unqualified success,” Sen. Loudon said. “They’ve sparked renewed interest in the document that supports and sustains the greatest nation of free people.”



Ben Cross



Greg Ayers



Samia Javed



Sen. Loudon and group



Janet Brookman

Computer “JPEG” files of these photos are available via email and can be obtained by calling Mike Asmus with the Missouri Senate’s Communications Office at (573) 751-3824.

Senator John Loudon’s Bill of Rights Contest

– *Honorable Mentions* –

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Kendra Willey	Parkway West
Jason C. M. Buckley	
Lauren Fonseca	Villa Duchesne
Jeff Christianson	Westminster Christian Academy
Jimmy Li	Parkway Central
Sabrina Smith	Bross Family Home School
Jessica Stafos	Parkway West
Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rubio	Parkway West
Erin Hoffman	Parkway South
Suzanne Bergner	

“Congratulations to these outstanding young citizens! May God bless them in all their endeavors.” – Sen. John Loudon