



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Winner of Sen. Loudon's Essay Contest Reads
the Bill of Rights Aloud During Opening Ceremonies**

JEFFERSON CITY —The Missouri Senate today acknowledged the importance of the first ten Amendments to the Constitution with the reading of the Bill of Rights during opening ceremonies, which has been required by law since 2002 under SB 831 sponsored by Sen. John Loudon, R-Ballwin.

After sponsoring SB 831, which also designated Dec. 15 as Bill of Rights Day, Sen. Loudon organized an annual Bill of Rights Essay Contest open to students in his district. This year, the winner, Mary Bax, a student at Parkway West, won first place with her essay on why the First Amendment is the most important of the Bill of Rights. Today she was selected to read the Bill of Rights on the Senate floor during opening ceremonies.

“It is vital that every generation understands the magnitude of those first 10 amendments to our Constitution,” Loudon said. He thinks the reading of the Bill of Rights was a fitting way to begin the legislative session because it reminded everyone of the values upon which America was built.

“All of the fundamental rights that are enumerated by the Bill of Rights—the freedom of speech and religion, the right to bear arms, the right to due process or any of the others— have an incredible impact on our everyday lives,” Loudon said. “We, as Americans, are very fortunate to have each of the freedoms granted to us as individuals and as a nation, and that is worth noting and appreciating as we go into this upcoming session.”

The other essay contest winners attended the ceremony and were recognized in the chamber through resolution. Their names are as follows:

Second place — Evan Milnor, Alton, Ill.-Whitfield School

Third place — Lauren Stiffelman, Ballwin, Mo.-Parkway West

Beth Anne Roberts, Manchester, Mo.- Marquette

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