



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Winners of Third Annual Bill of Rights Essay to be Announced Tomorrow, Missouri Bill of Rights Day

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, will be announcing the winners of the third annual Bill of Rights essay contest on Thursday, Dec. 15, which is Bill of Rights Day in Missouri. Sen. Loudon once again joined with the Missouri Press Association, the Missouri Broadcasters Association and the Missouri Bar Association to hold the essay contest for high school juniors and seniors throughout the 7th Senate District.

“To ensure that we maintain the civic values and lessons laid out by the founding fathers, our young people need to think critically about the living documents that continue to frame our political system,” Loudon said. “The Bill of Rights is a monumental political achievement, and Missouri students should understand that its influence today is as important as ever.”

During the 2002 legislative session, Loudon passed legislation designating Dec. 15 as Bill of Rights Day in Missouri. Sen. Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, co-sponsored the legislation.

The essay contest is open to all high school juniors and seniors in the 7th Senate District. All entries must be between 350 and 500 words in length and must answer the question: “Which amendment of the Bill of Rights is the most important, and why?” Essays are no longer being accepted for this year.

A panel will judge all entries, and the top three essayists will receive the following:

- First place will receive a \$500 scholarship
- Second place will receive a \$250 scholarship
- Third place will receive a \$100 scholarship

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In addition, all three contest winners will be invited to attend the opening day of the Missouri General Assembly on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006, and will be introduced on the Senate floor by Sen. Loudon.

“The Bill of Rights preserves the basic individual rights we enjoy as citizens of the United States,” Loudon said. “Continued study of this vital document is needed so we don’t take such freedoms for granted.”

On Dec. 15, 1791, the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution, also known as the Bill of Rights, were ratified. They are as follows:

Amendment I: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II: A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III: No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V: No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI: In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII: In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX: The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

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