



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. John Loudon Announces Winners of Third Annual Bill of Rights Essay Contest

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, today announced the winners of the third annual Bill of Rights essay contest organized by himself, the Missouri Press Association, the Missouri Broadcasters Association and the Missouri Bar Association. The contest is open to all high school juniors and seniors in the 7th Senate District.

The announcement comes on Bill of Rights Day in Missouri, a holiday created by legislation sponsored by Sens. Loudon and Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, during the 2002 legislative session.

“I am happy to announce the winners of this valuable and enriching essay contest,” Loudon said. “All of the entries were thoughtful and well-written, and I thank everyone who put in the extra effort to participate.”

A panel of judges ranked their top choices, and the results are as follows:

- First place: Robin Jenkins, Parkway West High School; \$500 scholarship
- Second place: Michael Bergner, Parkway West High School; \$250 scholarship
- Third place: Chelsea Keven, Principia; \$100 scholarship

Those receiving honorable mentions are:

- Elise Tanner, Parkway West High School
- Alexis Krieger, Visitation Academy
- Alice Stanley, Parkway West High School
- Emily Evenstad, Pattonville High School
- Libby Piel, Parkway West High School
- Caitlin Sharkey, Parkway West High School

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All three contest winners will be invited to attend the opening day of the Missouri General Assembly on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006, for a VIP Capitol tour, including a formal introduction on the Senate floor by Sen. Loudon.

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?”

“Writing is critical for students because it improves good written and oral communication skills,” said Patricia Campbell, Robin Jenkins’ teacher at Parkway West High School. “The outcome of the writing helps students understand the unique freedoms and rights the citizens of our nation have in comparison to the rest of the world. It is important to know the history and good public policy on which our government was founded, and there is no better way to learn that than through the study of our Bill of Rights.”

Although the First Amendment rights of speech and religion were favorite choices, there were other creative ideas in the contest. Judges selected Jenkins’ essay on the Second Amendment for top honors, but others placed with essays on the Ninth and 10th Amendments.

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