

Community High School District 94
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PRESS RELEASE

Veterans Award “Student Voice” at CHS

The West Chicago VFW Post 6791 and the Ladies’ Auxiliary awarded over \$4,400 in prize money to Community High School students who entered the annual Voice of Democracy Competition at the February 15th Board of Education meeting.

Sixty-six students from Community High School entered the contest, which is designed to foster patriotism, and allow students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three to five minute recorded essay based on an annual theme. This year’s theme was “*Does My Generation Have a Role in America’s Future?*”

Seniors Timothy Kotche, Katie Kemnitz, Jordan Gabriel-Beadle and Juniors Cassie Thill and Kristyn Pavnica tied for 1st place. All advanced to the 19th District Competition where Timothy Kotche placed 3rd overall.

Other student participants included: Shahnaz Alhamy, Ashley Aparicio, Tanya Arias, Justin Bangert, Payton Bayless, Kaylee Benda, Michelle Benda, Alexxa Bessey, Brianna Bessey, Logan D. Bruce, Marcel Carrasco, Zac Chavez, Noemi Cinto, Shannon Conlon, Julia Conard, Molly Cuka, Robby Cuppini, Samantha Donovan, Michael Dovel, Denise Esparza, Kathy Fletcher, Jordan Gabriel-Beadle, Lily Garcia, Jon Gilbertsen, Hayley Gillespie, Megan Gossen, Kristin Hendrickson, Kylie Hushion, Katie Kemnitz, Timothy Kotche, Ericka Lima, Hannah Martin, Josie Mattern, Victor Mendez, Suzanne Molinaro, Kyle Molskow, Claire Monroe, Daliadne Morejon, Daisy Moreno, Lizette Montenegro, Kelly Nguyen, Anthony Nolazco, Brendan O’Malley, Laura Panicali, Kristyn Pavnica, Katelyn Petrusaitis, Sarah Quealy, Jessica Quinn, Meagan Radloff, Kelsey Sayner, Sahaj Shah, Jacob Somen, Elizabeth Speer, Cassie Thill, Ashley Tunk, Kaitlyn Tynczuk, Marianne Ulett, Brenda Vargas, Fred Vargas, Emily Warkins, Cullen Wilcox, Kelsey Windisch, Robert Windisch, Jessica Wood, Elizabeth Youngwith and Matt Zajac.

Mary Ellen Daneels, of the Humanities Division, who serves as a liaison to Post 6791, states, “It is encouraging to me as an educator when organizations such as the VFW and the Ladies’ Auxiliary partner with District 94 to develop effective citizens for the future.”

Over the years, the VFW Post 6791 has sponsored an annual scholarship to seniors at CHS who plan to further their education. In addition, the Post and Ladies' Auxiliary have financially sponsored trips taken by the band program and the Junior Statesmen of America.

Both the VFW and Ladies' Auxiliary have generously sponsored the WeGo 2 Africa Program at the high school where students have raised money to build an elementary school in Sakutopi, Angola as well as ship medical, educational, and recreational supplies to children in the war-torn nation.

Ms. Daneels added, "The men and women of VFW Post 6791 are exemplary role models to CHS students. They demonstrate how service to one's community is not just a one-time event, but a habit of the heart. They have sacrificed so much to secure our freedoms and they continue to give."

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(taken by R. Nolzco)