



**The Richard H. Stewart, Jr.
American Legion Post # 543
St. James, NC 28461**

PRESS RELEASE

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American Legion Names winner in Speech Contest Post 543 Contest winner also named District winner



Nestor Rodriguez won the Constitutional Speech Contest conducted by American Legion Post 543 at the St. James Community Center today. Rodriguez, a fourth-year student at Brunswick County Early College High school, earned the gold medal and a \$1,000 college scholarship from American Legion Post 543.

Cassi Bailey, a senior at South Brunswick High School, earned the silver medal and a \$750 college scholarship. Both Rodriguez and Bailey have competed in previous years and have won a total of \$2,500 and \$1,500 in scholarships, respectively.

Each contestant delivered a prepared oration on a constitutional issue they chose as well as a shorter presentation on a randomly selected constitutional topic. Their presentations were judged by NC District Judge Jason Disbrow, SBHS History Teacher William Blackburn, retired attorneys Lee Miller and Doug Young, and retired Mt. Vernon guide Richard Fry. All judges are residents of Brunswick County.

Since the contest run by Post 543 was the only Post contest run in American Legion NC District Nine (comprising Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender Counties), District Nine Commander Dale Smith declared Rodriguez the winner of District Nine. Rodriguez will compete in the American Legion of NC Division Two contest, comprised of Posts in the 18 counties in southeast North Carolina.

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