



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

PRESS RELEASE

Jan.7, 2017

**John Muuss
Historian/Public Relations
910/253-3243**

**PLEASE GIVE PHOTO CREDIT TO...
John Muuss Photographic Artist
Inc.**

American Legion, Post 543 Oratorical Competition

On January 7, the Richard H. Stewart Jr. American Legion Post 543 held its annual Oratorical Competition at the St. James Community Center. Since 1938, the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the nation's high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and hone their public speaking skills. The following students won this year's competition:

First Place - Robert J. Thomas, a sophomore at Brunswick County Early College High School, earned the Gold Medal and a \$1,000 college scholarship and will now compete at the District Level against winners from communities in other counties in southeast North Carolina.

Second Place - Olivia Corby, a sophomore at West Brunswick High School, earned the Silver Medal and a \$750 college scholarship.

Third Place - Nestor Rodriguez, a sophomore at Brunswick County Early College High School, earned the Bronze Medal and a \$500 college scholarship.

Each contestant delivered a prepared oration on a constitutional issue as well as a shorter presentation on a randomly selected constitutional topic. Post 543 Competition Chairman Mike Fegan observed, “The contestants impressed the judges with the quality of their orations, especially since they were all only high school sophomores.”