

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

PRESS RELEASE

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

**Brunswick Early College High School Student
Wins Post 543 Oratorical Contest**

Brunswick County Early College Junior, Nestor Rodriguez, is the winner of the annual American Legion Post 543 Constitutional Speech Contest. Rodriguez, chose as his primary topic “The Dreamers; a Solution.” He earns a Gold Medal and a \$1,000 college scholarship and will now compete at the District level against winners from other communities in southeast North Carolina. The winners of the District contest compete for the State title in May.

2nd place went to Cassi Bailey, a junior at South Brunswick High School. Bailey earned a Silver Medal and a \$750 scholarship. Her topic traced the “Evolution of Voting” under the Constitution from its adoption to the present day. As a second part of the competition, each contestant was required to speak about the Second Amendment.



Post 543 Commander and Contest Chairman Mike Fegan observed that “both contestants impressed the judges with the timeliness of their topics as well as their knowledge of the Constitution.” Rodriguez competed in last year’s contest and won the Bronze Medal. This was Bailey’s first contest. Both will be eligible to compete again next year.

This was Post 543’s fifth contest with Post Legionnaires mentoring the participants to help them prepare for the event.

Post Student Mentor Jim Hilty, Cassi Bailey, Commander Mike Fegan, Nestor Rodriguez