

## **Post 543 Speech Winner Heads to State Competition**

**Brunswick County Early College High School student Nestor Rodriguez-Garcia has won the North Carolina American Legion Division II Constitutional Speech Contest and will now represent 18-southeastern counties in the statewide competition.**

**Rodriguez-Garcia, shown here with Post 543 Commander Mike Fegan, qualified for the regional competition by winning the Post 543/District 9 contest held at the St. James Community Center in January.**



**He will compete next in the Department contest that will be held on March 2 at the Old Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro. If he wins there, he will go on to the National Finals in Indianapolis in April. Mr. Rodriguez-Garcia's winning oration reviewed the history of immigration under the U.S. Constitution, from our nation's founding to the present time, and the challenges being faced today. His American Legion mentors for the contest were Mike Fegan and James Hilty of Post 543. Mr. Fegan is a retired attorney and member of the Bar of the State of New York, Dr. Hilty is Professor of American History Emeritus and Dean Emeritus of Temple University.**