

THE AMERICAN LEGION



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Press Release
(with pictures)
For Immediate Release

Shaw Sophomore Wins American Legion Oratorical Scholarship

Columbus, GA., March 8, 2008 – Samantha Special, Shaw Sophomore, was declared The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship champion for Columbus' newest American Legion Columbus North Post 323 and was also declared the winner for the American Legion Third District, Department of Georgia. She went on to compete in the Area Oratorical contest, held at Albany State College campus, where she came in third behind two seniors. She was awarded \$200 for her first place Third District win and \$175 for her third place win at the area competition. In addition to the financial rewards, Samantha received invaluable experience for next year's annual American Legion Oratorical Scholarship contest.

Samantha spoke for a minimum of eight minutes on "The Constitution: Rights and Responsibilities." During her speech, Samantha commented, "The Declaration of Independence is what most people would say is the most important document in American, but the Constitution is like the blueprint for a mansion while the Declaration of Independence is like a letter to your father letting him know you are moving out of the house."

After completing the eight-minute speech, the second part of the competition began with assigning Samantha a new topic and five minutes to compose her thoughts. She then gave a five-minute speech on her assigned topic of immigration.

Post 323 would like to congratulate Samantha on her wins and also take this opportunity to thank Samantha's Advanced Placement teacher at Shaw, Lynda Kannady, for recommending her. We look forward to hearing from Samantha next year and we will all be pulling for her to come in first place next year.

Anyone interested in joining next year's competition for the first place national award of an \$18,000 scholarship, can contact Post 323's Commanding Officer, Gary Murphy at (706) 563-2004, or e-mail him at cmdr323@mchsi.com. Post 323 will begin preparing for next year's competition in September 2009. For more information on Columbus North Post 323, visit <http://www.galegion323.org>.