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## War of 1812 Research Contest Winners Announced

(COLUMBUS) – The State of Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission has chosen the winners of a student essay contest. The winning students each received a share of a total of \$10,000 in cash.

The winners in the Grades 10-12 category are:

First Place Winner     \$3,000  
Frankie Whalen  
Chillicothe High School  
Chillicothe, Ohio

Second Place             \$1,500  
Joshua Toth  
Carpe Diem Academy  
Newton Falls, OH

Third Place               \$500  
Nicholas Siebenaller  
St. Francis de Sales High School  
Oregon, OH

Winners in the Grades 7-9 category are:

First Place Winner     \$3,000  
Samuel Boys  
Dayton Christian Homeschool  
Springboro, OH

Second Place Winner   \$1,500  
Karena Langhals  
Columbus Grove, OH

Third Place Winner     \$500  
Geoffrey Gao  
Solon Middle School  
Solon, OH

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Honorable mentions went to Luke Williams, Xenia High School, Xenia, OH; Jack Whalen, Chillicothe High School, Chillicothe, OH; Luke Kozlowski, Licking Valley High School, Newark, OH; Margot Grom, Wyoming Middle School, Wyoming, OH; Vinay Bodapati, Solon Middle School, Solon, OH; and Sara Honeck, Hilliard Memorial Middle School, Hilliard, OH.

Students were free to enter an essay, PowerPoint, podcast or Web site. Each entry was blind reviewed by the judges. Entries were judged on accuracy and clarity in presenting historical events, persons, and places; quality of assessment of the issues; understanding of the larger context surrounding the events; and cogent style and creativity of the final product.

Cash prizes were donated by Medical Mutual of Ohio.

The announcement was made at a ceremony for the winners held at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus today. Rep. William G. Batchelder, speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, was present and spoke to the students at the ceremony.

Joseph H. Zerbey IV, president and general manager of The Blade (Toledo) and chairman of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and Jared Chaney, executive vice president of Medical Mutual, presented the winners with certificates of achievement and checks.

Dr. Peter L. Hahn of Ohio State University is a member of the state's War of 1812 Commission and chair of the commission's Educational Working Group. He offered thanks to the judges for their hard work, and noted that more than 300 entries were received.

"The Commission was delighted by the number and quality of the submissions—inasmuch as the entries revealed that hundreds of young Ohioans answered the call for submissions by conducting the hard work of research and writing and by composing some very fine pieces of scholarship," Dr. Hahn noted.

A panel of 26 judges chose the winners. The judges were: Mary Bezbatchesko, Ohio Historical Society; Dennis Bova, *The Blade*; Dr. Hahn; Leslie Heaphy, Kent State University; Mary Ann Heiss, Kent State University; George Ironstack, Miami University; Adam Koeth, independent scholar; Mary Kay Mabe, Sinclair Community College and Urbana University; Paul Mayle, Mount Vernon Nazarene University; Noeleen McIlvenna, Wright State University; Anthony Milburn, Central State University; Dave Murray, *The Blade*; Caryn E. Newmann, Miami University; Sarah Paxton, Ohio State University; Patrick Potyondy, Ohio State University; Lynn Rigsbee, Central State University; Hayden Schilling, College of Wooster; Kelly D. Selby, Walsh University; Tom Sosnowski, Kent State University; Blanca Stransky, Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial; Brandy Thomas Wells, Ohio State University; Kristina Ward, Ohio State University; Jonathan Reed Winkler, Wright State University; Molly Wood, Wittenberg University; and Felege-Selam Yirga, Ohio State University.