



For Immediate Release

Contact: Dr. Bryan Huber 434-939-9000

WMMS Students Win Top Honors at the National History Day Contest

STANARDSVILLE, VIRGINIA—Greene County Public Schools is pleased to announce that three William Monroe Middle School students have received top honors for their submissions to this year's National History Day's National Contest.

Caroline Bruton and Kayla Shaller, 8th grade students at William Monroe Middle School, placed 1st in the Junior Group Documentary category with their film, "Communicating Through Cell Walls: The Secret Correspondence of American POWs in Vietnam." Caroline and Kayla investigated the importance of secret communication methods of American POWs during the Vietnam War and how they created a support network that kept their morale up and helped them survive their ordeal. These tactics are still taught to American servicemen today.

Mukund Marri, a 6th grade student at William Monroe Middle School, placed 8th in the same category with his documentary, "Navajo Code: The Unbreakable Code," which told the story of Navajo code talkers during World War II.

The National History Day Contest was founded in 1974 in hopes of inspiring students to conduct original historical research. To date, the contest has seen nearly half-a-million participants and distributed thousands of dollars in scholarship awards and prizes annually. Students from across the country in grades 6-12 participated in this year's competition. 49 of those students represented Virginia.

William Monroe Middle School teacher Mrs. Stephanie Hammer received the Naval Historical Society's Teacher of Distinction Award. This award is given to teachers who oversee students who place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd nationally in their respective categories for projects with a naval or maritime theme. Mrs. Hammer has participated in NHD for more than 10 years and has been instrumental in students' success in this annual competition.

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