

Essay contest winners write about famous leaders and local color guard instructor

By Tom Conning

Essay contest winners write about famous leaders and local color guard instructor

Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and Jackie Robinson are familiar names in American History. And, **Toni Tunstall** is a new name for American history. The color guard instructor at Lambertson Middle School in Carlisle, Pa., Tunstall inspired **Katherine Stockton-Juarez's** award-winning essay about the influence of African-American leaders.



Katherine Stockton-Juarez receives a certificate from County Commissioner Barbara Cross during an awards ceremony on Carlisle Barracks, Feb. 21. Stockton-Juarez was one of 23 students who won recognition for her essay on African-American leaders and their impact.

Stockton-Juarez is one of 23 middle school students from eight Carlisle area schools who received awards and applause for their writing achievements, Feb. 21 at the Army War College. The writing awards ceremony was the highlight of a community-wide essay contest sponsored by the Army to recognize the African-American contributions to the nation -- part of Carlisle Barracks' Black History Month.

Col. Bobby Towery, Army War College Deputy Commandant,

Pa. Rep. **Stephen Bloom**, Cumberland County Commissioner **Barbara Cross**, Carlisle Mayor **William "Doc" Kronenberg**, Army War College personnel and community members joined Army War College leaders and staff for the ceremony.

Stockton-Juarez wrote about Tunstall because she followed her dreams and didn't care about other people's opinions. "Toni Tunstall may not have changed our entire society, nor has she saved lives or stopped a disaster, but what she has done is influence many young, local adults," wrote Stockton-Juarez. "She has planted a seed, and it may grow just as big as Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream."

Tunstall could not attend the ceremony but said that she felt honored and proud that Stockton-Juarez wrote an essay about her. "Katherine just told me about it at practice one day," said Tunstall. "I haven't read it yet and I am looking forward to reading it."

Wilson Middle School, Lamberton Middle School, Saint Patrick School, Big Springs Middle School, Mechanicsburg Middle School, Eagle View Middle School, Good Hope Middle School and Yellow Breeches Middle School partnered with Carlisle Barracks for this Black History Month recognition event.

During the ceremony, **Col. David Funk**, warned the essay contest winners that they might have Army War College students asking for help with writing Strategy Research Projects. "Some of these colonels could use your help," said Funk. "If you see someone in a bad suit approaching you rapidly with a desperate look on their face, it's probably a student in search of SRP help. Run the other way."

Cora Haefner, sixth-grade winner from Saint Patrick's, has offered tips to her dad, Army War College student **Lt. Col. Jack Haefner**. "I have her read my SRP," he said. "If she can make sense of it, I know I'm good."

Cora Haefner (center-right) accepts awards from Lt. Col. Bobby Towery (right), Army War College Deputy Commandant, and Cumberland County Commissioner Barbara Cross (center-left) during an awards ceremony on Carlisle Barracks, Feb. 21. Haefner was one of 23 students from eight different middle schools who participated in a Black History Month essay contest.



Essay contest winners:

Big Spring Middle School, 6-7-8th grades: **Alanna Appel, Baylee Hartman, Bailey Jones**

Eagle View Middle School, 6-7-8th grades: **Madelin Levy, Jonathan Lyon, McKenna Anderson**

Good Hope Middle School, 6-7-8th grades: **Megan Saccary, Phobe Sobotta, Bridget Suhr**

Lamberton Middle School, 6-7-8th grades: **MacKenzie Ellis, Virginia Mele, Katherine Stockton-Juarez**

Mechanicsburg Middle School, 6-7-8th grades: **Drue Cappawana, Reagan Werner, Gemma Standley**

Saint Patrick School, 6-7-8th grades: **Cora Haefner, Cora DeFrancesco, Jovan Markovic**

Wilson Middle School, 6-7-8th grades: **Maddie Cutchall, Arianna Floyd, Marlene Lee**

Yellow Breeches Middle School, 6-7th grades: **Nathan Housel, Elaina Clancy**

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 22 February 2013