

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE WINS AMERICAN LEGION STATE AWARD

Cindy Grudowski, a sophomore at Fairborn High School, was recently notified by Gerald A. White, Director of Americanism and Youth Activities for the Department of Ohio American Legion, that she was the winner of the Americanism and Government Test Program in her category. Overall, eighteen winners were selected throughout the state in the sophomore, junior and senior categories.

According to White, over 72,000 students were tested in over 500 schools throughout the state. Grudowski's test was provided by Dignam-Whitmore Post 526 in Fairborn and was among 150 tests provided by the Post to the high school for administration. The annual test measures the knowledge of students concerning portions of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the United States Flag. It is a multiple choice questionnaire and includes an essay portion.

Grudowski is the daughter of SMSgt Walt and Yong Grudowski of Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Her favorite subjects are English and History and she enjoys an active interest in History and Government. She is currently a member of the Fairborn High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp. Her father is currently serving a tour of duty in Japan.

Local American Legion Post 526 Americanism and Government Programs Chairman Jack Reed was overjoyed when learning of her selection. Reed has been the Chairman of this program for over 30 years. Post Commander George Copfer stated that "she is the first winner we have had to anyone's knowledge and we have been sponsoring this program since the mid-1930's. "

Grudowski will join the other state winners in March for a chaperoned tour of Gettysburg National Cemetery and a visit to various monuments in Washington, D.C. Included in the trip will be a visit to the Capitol Building and laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

Copfer added that her win "might inspire other high school students to become involved with the history and nature of our great nation. This program, along with the many others we are involved with in the community and throughout the state, should be an inspiration for others."

Other Fairborn High School students who were selected as District but not Department winners included Stephanie Latino (Senior), Jacob Thoman (Junior), Kasey Lynch (Junior), and Gabriel D. Dawson (Sophomore).