

2020 Profile in Courage Essay Contest

Winners, Finalists, Semifinalists and Honorable Mentions

First-place Winner:

- Noah Durham, a junior at Cape Fear Academy in Wilmington, North Carolina
Essay subject: Walter B. Jones, former US Representative, North Carolina

Second-place Winner:

- Margaret Ackerly, a sophomore at Project 1523 in Richmond, Virginia
Essay subject: John Spellman, former Governor, Washington

Finalists:

- Jacqueline Atchley, a sophomore at Paul D. Schreiber High School in Port Washington, New York
Essay subject: Jason West, former Mayor of New Paltz, New York
- Derek Jiang, a junior at Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land, Texas
Essay subject: Steve Gunderson, former US Representative, Wisconsin
- Talia Kahan, a junior at Stuyvesant High School in New York City, New York
Essay subject: J. Press Reddoch, former Sheriff of Jones County, Mississippi
- Andrew Lu, a junior at the Harker School in San Jose, California
Essay subject: Margaret Chase Smith, former US Senator, Maine
- Andrew Tortoriello, a junior at the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, New York
Essay subject: Ralph Carr, former Governor of Colorado

Semifinalists:

- Elena Chen, a senior at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana
Essay subject: Christopher Louras, former Mayor of Rutland, Vermont
- Kieran Cullen, a junior at Hopkins Academy in Hadley, Massachusetts
Essay subject: Barbara Lee, US Representative, California
- Julia Dvorak, a senior at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana
Essay subject: Joe Donnelly, former US Senator, Indiana

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- Alp Ekmekcioglu, a junior at John Randolph Tucker High School in Henrico, Virginia
Essay subject: Lawrence Hogan, former US Representative, Maryland
- James Fleenor, a senior at Fleenor Academy in El Paso, Texas
Essay subject: Justin Amash, US Representative, Michigan
- William Harris, a senior at Charlotte Country Day School in Charlotte, North Carolina
Essay subject: Dennis Kucinich, former Mayor of Cleveland and former US Representative, Ohio
- Ariane Lee, a junior at Syosset High School in Syosset, New York
Essay subject: Heidi Heitkamp, former US Senator, North Dakota
- Michelle Miao, a sophomore at Talawanda High School in Oxford, Ohio
Essay subject: Ralph Carr, former Governor, Colorado

Honorable Mentions:

- Sophie Alexis, a senior at Henry M. Gunn High School in Palo Alto, California
Essay subject: G. Bryan Collins, Superior Court Judge, North Carolina
- Rex Burkman, a sophomore at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis, Indiana
Essay subject: Birch Bayh, former US Senator, Indiana
- Minyoung Chang, a junior at Cherry Creek High School in Greenwood Village, Colorado
Essay subject: Ralph Carr, former Governor, Colorado
- Timothy Kjar, a freshman at Glastonbury High School in Glastonbury, Connecticut
Essay subject: Edward Costigan, former US Senator, Colorado
- Cooper Scholl, a senior at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana
Essay subject: Herbert Lehman, former Governor, New York
- Elisabeth Snyder, a junior at George Mason High School in Falls Church, Virginia
Essay subject: Lawrence Hogan, former US Representative, Maryland
- Hamid Torabzadeh, a sophomore at Long Beach Polytechnic High School in Long Beach, California
Essay subject: Wilbur Mills, former US Representative, Arkansas
- Bethany Villaruz, a senior at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana
Essay subject: Birch Bayh, former US Senator, Indiana

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Honorable Mentions, continued:

- Alicia Xin, a freshman at Scarsdale High School in Scarsdale, New York
Essay subject: Albert Roberts, former Governor, Tennessee
- Hugh Zhang, a junior at The Pingry School in Basking Ridge, New Jersey
Essay subject: Raph Carr, former Governor, Colorado