## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Harrison High School Junior Wins 2<sup>nd</sup> Round American Legion Speech Contest, Area 4 Next

Audrey McNeal, a Junior from Harrison High School, won the American Legion District 5 (GA)/Second Round of the American Legion Department of Georgia's 82<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Constitution High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest. McNeal advanced after winning the first round contest Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at Legion Post 304 in Acworth. Finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> was Trayson Martin, a Senior from Georgia Cyber Academy in Atlanta. Martin resides in Powder Springs and advanced after winning his first round contest at Legion Post 294. The event was held Sat., Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Legion Post 304 in Acworth.

In addition to again winning a \$350 cash award, Ms. McNeal will now advance to the third round, the Area 4 Contest, at 1:00pm, Sat., Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, also to be held at Post 304, 4220 S. Main St., Acworth. She will compete against winners of the Legion's 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> District contests, located in northwest Georgia.

The winner of the Area 4 contest will advance to compete in the Dept. of Georgia state contest on Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Mercer University-Macon Campus in Macon, GA. The state winner will represent Georgia in the National Finals Competition, April 5-7, 2019 in Indianapolis, IN.

In addition to the cash awards by winners of the various state/local elimination rounds, college scholarships of  $$18,000 (1^{st} Place), $16,000 (2^{nd} Place), and $14,000 (3^{rd} Place) will be awarded in the National Finals contest. The American Legion pays the expenses of state winners at the national contest.$ 

The American Legion Department of Georgia's 5<sup>th</sup> District includes 20 Legion Posts in the following Northwest Georgia counties: Cobb, Paulding, Fulton, Douglas, Coweta, Heard, Carroll and Haralson.

For more information, please visit <a href="www.legion.org/oratorical">www.legion.org/oratorical</a> or contact: Chuck Polk, <a href="mailto:chuckah@icloud.com">chuckah@icloud.com</a>, (770) 855-6201.



Front Row (L to R): Audrey McNeal (!st Place), 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Harrison High School, Kennesaw; Trayson Martin (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Georgia Cyber Academy, Atlanta

Back Row (L to R): Chuck Polk, American Legion District 5 (GA) Oratorical Chair; Kevin Marcy (Judge), Owner, Georgia Funeral Care/Acworth; Nicolle Williams (Judge), Director-Startup Operations for Speak Life Mgt; Ben Baughman (Judge), Curator, Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History, Kennesaw; James Fultz, American Legion District 5 (GA) Commander



Audrey McNeal (!st Place), 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Harrison High School, Kennesaw, receives her winner's certificate and cash \$350 cash award from James Fultz, American Legion District 5 (GA) Commander

