

NEWS RELEASE

Seton Catholic Student Places First in Veterans Day Essay Contest *This year's theme honors veterans of the Cold War*



CHANDLER, Ariz., Nov. 9, 2017 – Seton Catholic Prep student Ethan Brown earned first place in the 2017 Phoenix Veterans Day Parade essay contest for his composition about the Cold War and his grandfather's service during that politically charged era.

The Ahwatukee-Foothills junior (*pictured here*) was among more than 200 students who entered the essay contest, writing to the theme, "Silent Sacrifice: Honoring Our Cold War Veterans." This is the fourth year in a row that Seton students have either won or placed in the essay contest, which is open to Maricopa County high school students.

The essays were judged on creative writing, grammar, originality, content and theme focus. The top three finishers will receive cash prizes courtesy of Durant's Restaurant and ride in the Phoenix Veterans Day parade. Brown's English teacher, Jessica Breen, also will receive a \$150 gift card for use in her classroom.

Brown described the Cold War as a tense, 46-year-long standoff between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. He personalized his essay by recounting the experiences of his grandfather, retired Air Force Master Sgt. Paul G Agne.

"Everything my grandpa did in his military career was designed to prepare him for full-scale nuclear war," Brown stated. Agne, who enlisted right out of high school, was stationed at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson in 1980 when he was deployed to Turkey.

Brown wrote, "Turkey was a dangerous country with bombings and violence, but the Americans were there to support the Turks against the USSR. It took an amazing amount of courage to leave everything behind in order to protect the world from the Soviet threat, but like all veterans, he sacrificed because of his love for our country."

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CONTACT: Joyce Valdez
Communications & Marketing
480.963.1900 x3011
Jvaldez@setoncatholic.org

Kim Cecere
On Point Communications
480.284.3068
Kim@onpointbrand.com

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Seton Principal Victor Serna said, “We are proud of Ethan for earning first place in the Veterans Day Parade essay competition. Ethan, as well as those students who have done so well in previous competitions, is a great example of how we value and honor our veterans here at Seton Catholic Preparatory.”

To read Brown’s entire essay, visit <https://www.phoenixveteransdayparade.org/>.

About Seton Catholic Preparatory

A 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, Seton Catholic Preparatory is a diocesan, coeducational high school in Chandler, Arizona, open to students of all faiths and dedicated to academic excellence, leadership and loving service to others. For more than 60 years, Seton Catholic has served the East Valley of Phoenix as the only Catholic college preparatory high school, serving young men and women from parochial, private, charter, public and home schooling backgrounds. Seton Catholic graduates earn scholarships to and attend an array of selective colleges and universities, including state, private and Ivy League schools as well as service academies. Seton Catholic is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the Western Catholic Education Association. www.setoncatholic.org.

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