

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Local Contact:

Edith H. Gibney
National Society of The Colonial Dames of America
The State of Texas * Waco Town Committee
(254) 744-3934 * ehgibney@gmail.com

Local High School Students win National Essay Contest and Scholarship
Will attend “Congressional Seminar” in Washington, D.C.

One-of-kind educational opportunity provided by the National Society of The Colonial Dames
and the Washington Workshops Foundation.

Emily Garner from Rapoport Academy Public School in Waco and **Seth Robinson** a home schooled student from Clifton won a national essay contest sponsored by the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA). Essay winners receive a full scholarship to attend the 2011 Congressional Seminar this June 18–24, 2011 in Washington, D.C. Emily and Seth are two of the four Texas winners of the essay competition.

Emily Garner is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Garner of Waco. Seth Robinson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Robinson of Clifton.

Presented by the Washington Workshop Foundation – a nonprofit educational organization located in Washington, D.C. – the Congressional Seminar engages qualified high school students in active legislative simulation during a week-long Model Congress. Playing the roles of freshman representatives, speakers, lobbyists, and caucus leaders, participants work to draft, revise and hopefully pass a bill through their seminar leaders.

Additionally, seminar participants – who hail from 30 states and social backgrounds - enjoy lectures, site visits and personal interactions with Washington, D.C.-based policy makers, professionals and Representatives.

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America actively promotes national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. Founded in 1891, the NSCDA is an association of 45 Corporate Societies with over 15,000 members. The Society headquarters are in Washington, D.C. Programs and projects include the national essay contest.

Since 1967, the Washington Workshop Foundation has provided experience-based, educational travel programs to highly motivated, academically prepared, and inquisitive students from across the United States and around the world. The majority of these programs have brought students to Washington, D.C. for a more comprehensive understanding of leadership, civic education, federal government, U.S politics and global affairs.

This year's NSCDA essay topic was: "IN HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1796, GEORGE WASHINGTON WARNED AGAINST THE ADVENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN NATIONS WITH POPULACE-ELECTED GOVERNMENTS, *DO YOU BELIEVE OUR NATION'S HISTORY SUPPORTS HIS VIEWS? EXPLAIN.*"