



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### IMPACT Senior Performs at Prestigious National Library

Founding Father John Adams might have been a tad envious of George Washington, but he certainly respected his leadership. So, too, does IMPACT senior Matthew Broussard who recently reprised his award-winning role as Adams at a surprise appearance for the Board of Regents and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, Washington's presidential library.

Broussard won first place in Senior Individual Performance last June at National History Day, his fourth first-place finish at the national level since he began competing in National History Day in the sixth grade. Moved by his performance, library officials invited him to perform his re-enactment of John Adams discussing Washington's patriotism and governance. Broussard's performance was a surprise to the Board of Regents and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, who gave him a standing ovation when he concluded.

Allison Wickens, Vice President for Education at the library wrote in an email to the Broussard family, "Matthew was excellent, beyond his super awesome performance. No one else this week got a standing ovation from the board. That is something to be proud of. He did an outstanding job representing National History Day in a broader sense which is key for our continued support of the program nationwide."

"This performance was, without a doubt, the most memorable of all that I've ever done. It was an incomparable experience to present a project on George Washington in the very place he loved more than anywhere else. I was really excited, but very nervous as I looked around the room and saw historians who have authored books about Washington. As soon as the performance began, their faces and excitement over a student doing research about their favorite topic made it exhilarating. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity," Broussard said.



Photo courtesy of Broussard family

IMPACT senior Matthew Broussard presents his award-winning performance at the Fred W. Smith National Library.

The topic for the 2015 National History Day competition in June was "Leadership and Legacy in History." For months, Broussard researched Washington's leadership, particularly in 1782-1783 during the Newburgh Crisis, studying letters and documents from that era. He developed a 10-minute script from his extensive research. Competitors in the Individual Performance category act out their scripts, complete with costuming and props. Broussard believed that Washington's story could best be told by John Adams. In his presentation, entitled, "Resisting the Reins of Power: Washington at His Finest in the Temple of Virtue," Broussard also dispelled the myths that Washington chopped down a cherry tree or wore wooden teeth.

In addition to winning first place in his category and June, followed by the honor of being invited to perform at the prestigious library, Broussard also was selected for the George Washington Leadership in History Award, an honor given to a student who best exemplifies the influence of Washington in the nation's history.

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