St. Louis – The Association of the United States Army, St. Louis Gateway held its Annual Leadership Awards Banquet recently at the Missouri Athletic Club, St. Louis. The guest speaker was the Honorable Ike Skelton, Congressman from Missouri and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Congressman Skelton presented awards to Soldiers of the Year from the Active, Reserve and National Guard components of the Army and distinguished local high school college-bound seniors. Several of these soldiers had recently returned from duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The thirty award recipients were selected from a large pool of applicants that represented the superb quality of soldiers and high school students destined to furthering their careers and educational pursuits. The soldier recipients of the prestigious “Soldier of the Year” award were selected by their respective Unit Commanders and held not only the highest standard from their peers and supervisors, but also distinguished themselves as leaders respected by their unit members as a “cut above the rest”.

The outstanding high school recipients displayed not only keen intellect and superb academic endeavors but also, as reflected by their essays, critical thinking on current events affecting our United States Army.

The scholarship and awards given to the thirty winners ranged from $250 to $3000 for a grand total of $32,000. These funds were donated by a number of local companies, corporations, and individuals to include: The Boeing Company, Anheuser-Busch, Seiler Instruments & Manufacturing Company, Demmer Corporation, GMP Metals, EMA Environmental, Tri-Rinse Inc., Essex Industries, Major General (Ret) Joe Ernst, and Major General (Ret) Joe Thompson and Walter Lamkin.

AUSA Student Winners were:

Students in Uniform:

Sgt. Terra Borkowski Missouri National Guard $1000
Sgt. Jefferson Green US Army HRC $1000
Niquita Harrell Beaumont High School ROTC $1000
Sgt. Jennifer Pettigrew Missouri National Guard $1000
Ria Terry Beaumont High School ROTC $1000
Child of Parent Serving:

Drew Gehrke        Father-Active Duty HRC  $2000
Alex Hendel       Father-Reserve at Scott AFB  $1000
Patrick Kacsur     Father-Active DFAS-St. Louis  $1000
Ashley Shea        Father-Active at Scott AFB  $1000

Child of Veteran:

Elizabeth Charnowski  Father-Army Veteran  $1000
Alayne Potter       Father-Army Retired  $2000
Lauren Schlosser    Step-Father-Army Veteran  $1000

High School Seniors Whose Parent Works for a Defense Contractor or Agency

Brittany Kurowski  Nerinx Hall High School  $3000
Jessica Loyet      O'Fallon Township High School  $2000
Tina Mozelewski    Hazelwood West High School  $2000
Molly Anderson     Parkway Central High School  $1000
Matt Camden        Francis Howell North  $1000
Mark Council       Edwardsville High School  $1000
Amanda Finkes      Francis Howell North  $1000
Joathan Meany      Parkway South High School  $1000
Jessica Perkins    Francis Howell High School  $1000
Jillian Ridderbos  Westminster Christian Academy  $1000
Rebecca Smith      Pattonville High School  $1000
Tu Vo              Gateway Tech High School  $1000
William Whitford   Francis Howell Central High  $1000
Michael Fowler     Father-Veteran  $250
Paige Halamicek    Father-Veteran  $250
Paige Rusan        Mother-Veteran  $250
Melissa Williams   Father-Veteran  $250

AUSA Soldiers of the Year were:

Awardee            Unit

SGT Shaw Koch      USTRANSCOM (JTRU)
SPC Keith Kettenback  620th CSSB
SPC Matthew DePriest  HRC
SSG Arlisa L. Moffat  US Army Element, USTRANSCOM
SPC Kara A. Kittrell  135th ROC
SSG Sarah S. Robinson  835th CSSB
SGT Kristin C. Kemplin  648th RSG
SGT Corey Landale Stevenson  6025th GSU
SP4 Ai Chi Thi Truong  325th CSH
Brittany Kurowski accepting her $3000 award from chapter board member Keith Guller. Brittany will be graduating from Nerinx Hall High School.

The Honorable Ike Skelton receiving a thank you gift from chapter president Doug Stuart.
The Honorable Ike Skelton presenting Sgt. Terra Borkowski of the Missouri National Guard her $1000 award.
Distinguished Soldiers of the Year. From Left to Right:

SGT Corey Landale Stevenson  6025th GSU
SPC Kara A. Kittrell  135th ROC
SSG Arlisa L. Moffat  US Army Element, USTRANSCOM
SP4 Ai Chi Thi Truong  325th CSH
SGT Kristin C. Kemplin  648th RSG
SSG Sarah S. Robinson  835th CSSB

Not pictured:
SGT Shaw Koch  USTRANSCOM (JTRU)
SPC Keith Kettenback  620th CSSB
SPC Matthew DePriest  HRC

For more information visit the Association of the United States Army website at www.ausa.org or visit the St. Louis Gateway local website at www.gatewayausa.org.