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## **Walt Whitman Senior Receives First Prize in National Essay Competition from John Hancock's Signature Financial Partners**

### **Kevin Kay Receives \$5,000 for 529 College Savings Plan**

BETHESDA, MD (November 10, 2011) – Kevin Kay, a Walt Whitman High School senior, received \$5,000 from John Hancock Financial for [his essay](#) which took first prize this year in the national John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest for high school students. Kay's essay featured Florida State Representative John Orr, who in 1956 cast the sole dissenting vote against measures to perpetuate school segregation in his state. Nathan Dye, registered representative at Signature Financial Partners, a local financial services firm and member of John Hancock Financial Network, presented the award to Kay.



“John Hancock supports this award because the company believes in the importance of encouraging student leadership and civic engagement,” said Dye. “We at Signature Financial Partners are very proud to represent John Hancock as we present this award to Kevin.”

The \$5,000 from John Hancock is contributed to a John Hancock Freedom 529 College Savings Plan for Kay's use in the future. Colin O'Brien, Kay's nominating teacher, also received a John F. Kennedy Public Service Grant in the amount of \$500 to be used for school projects that encourage student leadership and civic engagement.

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#### About the Profile in Courage Essay Contest

The annual Profile in Courage Essay Contest invites students from across the nation to write an essay on the political courage of a U.S. elected official. The contest is a companion program of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award™, named for President Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*, which recounts the stories of eight U.S. Senators who risked their careers, incurring the wrath of constituents or powerful interest groups, by taking principled stands for unpopular positions. This year, 2,002 students submitted essays from all fifty states and Washington, D.C. United States citizens studying in Canada, Guam, and France also participated. The essay contest is sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and supported by John Hancock Financial.

The winning essay by was chosen by a distinguished bipartisan committee of national, political, and community leaders. Albert R. Hunt, executive Washington editor of Bloomberg News, chairs the 13-member Profile in Courage Award Committee. Committee members are U.S. Senator Thad Cochran (R-Mississippi); U.S. Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-Maryland); Kenneth R. Feinberg, Chairman of the board of directors of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; U.S. Senator Lindsey O. Graham (R-South Carolina); Antonia Hernandez, president and chief executive officer of the California Community Foundation; Elaine Jones, former director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund; Caroline Kennedy, president of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Paul G. Kirk, Jr., former U.S. Senator (D-Massachusetts) and Chairman Emeritus of the board of directors of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Martha Minow, Dean and Jeremiah Smith, Jr. Professor of Law at Harvard Law School; Shari Redstone, President, National Amusements, Inc; John Seigenthaler, founder of the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University; David M. Shribman, executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe (R-Maine); and Patricia M. Wald, former judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Tom McNaught, executive director of the Kennedy Library Foundation, staffs the Committee.

#### About John Hancock Financial Network

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