

## DISTRICT 10

Denise Maxie, Austin; Luke Aaron Woolbright, Scottsburg.

## 2006-2007 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

## BARTHOLOMEW

Karina Collins, Central Middle School.

## BENTON

Kybren Foster and Ayren Cobb, Benton Central Junior High School.

## CARROLL

Chad Griffin, Carroll Jr./Sr. High School.

## CASS

Dalton Christensen and Brittany Wagoner, Columbia Middle School.

## CLARK

Sarah Trotter, Charlestown Middle School.

## CLAY

Kole Smith, Clay City Junior High School.

## CRAWFORD

Leah Lahue, Crawford County Jr. Sr. High School.

## DEARBORN

Shane Bedford and Jessica Tillman, St. John Lutheran School.

## DECATUR

Jasmine Duvall, North Decatur Jr. High School.

## DEKALB

Joshua Garcia, DeKalb Middle School; and Jordon Hartleroad, Eastside Jr. High School.

## ELKHART

Kirstin Guerrero, Heritage Middle School.

## FLOYD

William Happel, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

## FRANKLIN

Bret Rosenberger and Emily Ash, St. Michael School.

## GREENE

Jesse Houchin and Janna Jackson, Linton-Stockton Jr. High School.

## HAMILTON

Joshua Foster and Katie Cheesman, Carmel Middle School.

## HENDRICKS

Ross Smith, Smith Academy.

## HENRY

Cole Williams and Rebekah Bales, Tri Jr. High School.

## HOWARD

Tyler Barnes and Leah Naegeli, Northwestern Middle School.

## JACKSON

Kyle Wischmeier, Lutheran Central Middle School; and Denise Maxie, Crothersville Jr. High School.

## JASPER

Garrett Smith and Leslie Smith, Rensselaer Middle School.

## JAY

Aaron Loy and Mariah Hornaday, East Jay Middle School.

## LAKE

Hunter Balczon, Our Lady of Grace; and Taylor Hillegonds, Crown Point Christian School.

## MARION

Andrew Klein and Lindsay Rader, Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

## MIAMI

Cole Shafer and Jylian Vigar, Maconaquah Middle School.

## MONROE

Matthew Teach, Tri-North Middle School; and Sarah Anne Foley, home school.

## OWEN

Jansen Hight and Sarah Law, Owen Valley Middle School.

## PORTER

Maggie Mantel, Crown Point Christian School.

## POSEY

Austin Bender and Jordan Wassmer, North Posey Jr. High School.

## PULASKI

Stefanie McGovern, Eastern Pulaski Middle School.

## RANDOLPH

Carlas Bogue and Kailey Gough, Driver Middle School.

## ST. JOSEPH

Dylan Gainey and Emily Dillon, St. Matthew Cathedral School.

## SCOTT

Luke Woolbright, Scottsburg Middle School.

## STARKE

Schuyler Awald and Emily Pucel, Oregon-Davis Jr. High School.

## VANDERBURGH

Jacob Newmaster, Trinity Lutheran; and Jessica Kelley, St. Joseph School.

## VERMILLION

Brandon Downs and Abby Garner, North Vermillion Jr. High School.

## WABASH

Hunter Wells and Madison Kroh, Northfield Jr. High School.

## WARRICK

Andrew Gill and Emma Donaldson, Evansville Christian School.

## WAYNE

Cody Short, Centerville Jr. High School; and Elise Armstrong, Seton Catholic Jr. High School.

## WELLS

Kent Blazier and Chelsea Sorg, Norwell Middle School.

## WHITE

Jacob Brummett and Kaity Faucett, Frontier Jr. High School.●

## REMEMBERING RAFAEL VAZQUEZ

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I wish to speak in honor and pay tribute to a fallen paramedic from my State, Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Lieutenant Rafael Vazquez.

Rafael's life ended prematurely this week; he died at the very young age of 42. But the memory of his dedication, hard work, and commitment to public service will live on for many lifetimes.

Rafael Vazquez led a life committed to public service. For the past 7 years, he worked at Station 28 in Royal Palm Beach, and this January he was promoted to the rank of rescue lieutenant. The men and women he supervised speak about him with great pride—describing him as a hard worker, a man with a sense of humor, and a loving father. This was a man whom they respected and considered a friend; they simply called him "Ray."

Rafael's coworkers knew him as someone who loved his Puerto Rican heritage. He often cooked Latin food for his colleagues. And even though he was born in Brooklyn, NY, after Rafael

moved to Florida, as is our tradition in the Sunshine State, he immediately became a Floridian.

Rafael was also a family man—a devoted father and husband. He met his wife Michele while working at American Medical Response and cared for her deeply. In a recent news account, Rafael's wife Michele remembered her husband as, "... a jokester with a quick wit and an infectious smile who would help anyone in need." Michele added, "I thank God every day for giving me the 13 years that I had with him." The couple had a young son together and four children from previous relationships.

Floridians receive rapid medical care in times of emergency because of people like Rafael Vazquez. He loved his work and his contribution will be missed.

On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I thank and honor rescue lieutenant Rafael Vazquez for his service to his community and the safety he helped to promote.●

## HONORING THE LIFE OF ELLEN PANEOK

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish today to honor the life of Ellen Paneok, who left us last Sunday, March 2, at the age of 48. So little time on this Earth, but Ellen made so much of it. The State of Alaska is much the better for all that she has accomplished.

How to characterize Ellen? I could speak of her work for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southcentral Alaska. Or her work to promote aviation safety at the FAA and as a volunteer in the general aviation community.

I could speak of the inspiring articles she has published. I could tell you that Ellen was a highly respected Inupiat artist working in ivory and scrimshaw.

I could speak of that fact that Ellen offered herself freely as a role model for Native young people.

I could speak to the kindness and loyalty she gave to her friends, including Pat Heller, a very special friend of Ellen's and mine. Ellen's friends returned that kindness and loyalty as they took responsibility for Ellen's care in her final days.

And I could speak of the fact that Ellen was one of the first women—not to mention one of the first Alaska Native women—to pursue the career of Alaska bush pilot. Careers just don't get more adventurous than that. And it was her achievements in the field of aviation that earned Ellen a place in our Nation's history.

Ellen started flying in 1976. She flew primarily out of Barrow carrying mail and supplies to the Native villages of northern Alaska.

Her life story was chronicled in the "Women in Flight" exhibit at the National Air and Space Museum in the nineties. Ellen was one of 37 women in aviation who were part of that exhibit.

On September 11, 1997, she delighted museum goers with stories about chasing polar bears off the runway before