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Perry High Student Awarded Army ROTC Bootstrap Scholarship



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Perry High School senior Cadet Colonel Abbie Spears has been selected for an Army ROTC 3-year college scholarship. The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) partnered with Army ROTC to provide at least 20 “Bootstrap Scholarships” for Georgia high school seniors.

GAEL invited superintendents across the state to nominate one student from their district for this scholarship. Spears was nominated by Houston County’s Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mark Scott.

Those awarded this scholarship are outstanding scholars, athletes and leaders who met this criteria: play varsity sports; involved in school and community; and have a minimum of a 1,000 on the SAT or 19 on the ACT. C/Col. Spears exemplifies these qualities. She served as Cadet Corps Commander for Perry High’s Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC). As Corps Commander, she was responsible for the operation of the Cadet Corps overseeing a staff of 25 and a corps of 135 cadets. Her responsibilities included fulfillment of the goals, objectives and operations outlined in AFJROTC guidance. In addition, she was responsible for the establishment and enforcement of appearance standards, efficiency, training and conduct. Through her outstanding leadership, she led the Cadet Corps to an “Exceeds Standards” rating on their most recent HQs AFJROTC unit inspection. During her four years of AFJROTC, she earned over 520 hours of community service.

C/Col. Spears maintained a 4.0 GPA at Perry High and participated in Varsity Soccer, Volleyball and Wrestling. She was also a member of the AFJROTC Drill Team and Color Guard. She won numerous awards, including second place at the YAM Houston County Art Show, Honorable Mention at the Georgia National Fair, and Georgia Capitol Art Show Exhibition with Georgia Legislators. C/Col. Spears has also received the Silver Star Community Service with Excellence Award. Her AFJROTC awards include Military Order of World Wars Award, National Sojourners Award, Top Performer Award - presented to only top 2% of AFJROTC cadets - two Outstanding Cadet Ribbons and more.

Spears plans to attend Georgia Southern University to pursue a degree in nursing. Bootstrap Scholars commit to serve in the U.S. Army for at least four years active duty, plus four years Individual Ready Reserves. An option is to serve eight years in the Reserve or National Guard.

Lt. Col. (ret) James "Greg" Bailey recommended C/Col. Spears to Dr. Scott. Lt. Col. Bailey serves as the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor for Perry High School's AFJROTC Unit GA-066. Perry High is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry. Dr. Wesley "Del" Martin serves as principal and may be reached at 478-988-6298.

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