



Everything New Orleans

The Times-Picayune

Sea cadets called 'best of the best'

Thursday, July 05, 2007

By Patty Mattison

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy Fourth. I'm sure there were lots of picnics and seafood boils, sports and celebrating. A story I covered recently really fits in with this holiday.

▼ Advertisement

[CONTINUE STORY](#) ↓

I attended the Petty Officer Leadership Academy graduation recently at the Naval Air Base in Belle Chasse and I was impressed with these teenage boys and girls and their dedication to our country. The cadets showed us some very impressive acrobatics they learned, which included flips and jumps, and they only had a week to get their routine together. They posted the colors, and we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Before he gave out the awards to the 18 sea cadets, Capt. Walter "Jay" Adelman said, "As you know, not everyone made it; you are the best of the best. You've proven yourself to be mentally and physically fit. That's the best of the best. Congratulations!"

Lt. Cmdr. James Dodd said, "Continue to take care of yourself. The tools you've learned will take you a long way. Your performance must be a continued reflection of your training."

Adelman and Dodd presented awards. The cadets honored were Roy Cochran, Twin Cities Squadron, St. Paul, Minn.; Morghan Gaudin, Eisenhower Division, New Orleans; Joshua Guimbello, Chennault Division, Lake Charles; Charlotte Joure, Tennessee Division, Millington, Tenn.; James McLean, Courageous Division, Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Stephen Salassi, Eisenhower Division, New Orleans; Nicholas Batson, 2745th Seabee Battalion, Marietta, Ga.; Devon Bowie, Eisenhower Division, New Orleans; Amber Brace, Lone Star Squadron, Dallas-Fort Worth; Ben Greenwald, Twin Cities Squadron, St. Paul, Minn.; Shelly Obman, Eisenhower Division, New Orleans; Austin Stevenson, Lone Star Squadron,

Dallas-Fort Worth; Phillip Walls, Tennessee Division, Millington, Tenn.; and Lauren Wehrmann, Lone Star Squadron, Dallas-Fort Worth.

Salassi was named honor cadet and Wehrmann received the academic award.

The 13- to 18-year-olds went through a stringent training program to receive their award, and will continue training once a month in their home divisions. Students are recruited for the program through schools across the country.

The course is a good way to get young people to enlist in military service after high school, and leaders say it keeps them on the right track during their teenage years.

Thanks to you for taking this challenge, for your dedication and bravery and for believing in this great country of ours.

.....