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NEWS RELEASE

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Two Veterans High Seniors Named National Merit Scholar Finalist

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Veterans High School seniors Andrew Babbitt and Kyle Kicklighter have advanced to National Merit Scholar Finalist status from approximately 15,000 semifinalists. All finalists will be considered for National Merit Scholarships offered in 2018.



Andrew is an Eagle Scout, National Merit semi-finalist, Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar with Distinction and University of Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient. A letterman in Cross Country, Andrew also played soccer. He is active in Beta Club, National Spanish Honor Society, Rho Kappa, Math Team, Debate Team and Academic Bowl. He earned highest average awards in Algebra, Honors Civics & US World Affairs, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Honors Chemistry, AP World History, Accelerated Geometry-Advanced Algebra, Accelerated Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, AP US History and AP Chemistry. Andrew is an accomplished musician on the trumpet, having made District Honor Band for four years and Region Honor Band for two years. The 2018 Veterans High STAR Student, he has volunteered as a math tutor and soccer referee. He is considering Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, the Georgia Institute of

Technology or the University of Georgia to continue his education by studying Economics or Politics. His parents are Scott and Heidi Babbitt.

Kyle is a National Merit semi-finalist who has earned highest average awards in Honors 9th Grade Literature, Honors Biology, Accelerated Algebra, Honors Chemistry, Accelerated Geometry/Advanced Algebra, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP English Language, AP Statistics, Accelerated Pre-Calculus, Spanish 2 and Spanish 3. Additionally, he is an AP Scholar with Distinction, University of Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient, and Governor's Honors Program semi-finalist in science. Kyle participated in the Perry Youth Leadership program and has been actively involved in Beta Club, Math Team, STEM Club, Academic Bowl, Spanish Honor Society, International Club, Rho Kappa and National English Honor Society. He also has volunteered in the Warhawk Workshop at Veterans High and Math Alive at the Museum of Aviation. The son of Dennis and Mary



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Kicklighter, Kyle plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology to study engineering.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) - which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

All winners of Merit Scholarship awards (Merit Scholar designees) are chosen from the Finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. A variety of information is available for NMSC selectors to evaluate: the Finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay.

Veterans High School is located at 340 Piney Grove Road in Kathleen. Chris Brown serves as principal. For more information, please visit www.nationalmerit.org.

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