Air Force JROTC awards presented

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — Distinguished visitors, parents, grandparents and school administrators joined in to celebrate the achievements of Trinity High School Air Force Junior ROTC cadets. Awards were presented to Trinity and Wheatmore students who excelled in the JROTC program during the 2017-2018 school year.

“Awards and decorations are a military tradition,” said Cadet Captain Styles Hedgecock. “Members of a military unit proudly display their ribbons as testimonies of their contributions to the success of their unit.”

Cadets were called to the podium to receive ribbons such as Patriotic flag, Longevity, Health and Wellness, Recruiting, Good Conduct, academic and Drill Team.

A long list of National Awards were presented.

Distinguished Cadet badge went to Cadet Tristan Cannoy.

The Air Commando Association Award went to Cadet Styles Hedgecock.

Earning the Celebrate Freedom Foundation Award was Cadet Christopher Mullins.

The Tuskegee Airmen Ribbon went to Cadets Daniel Gomez Escalante and Rachel Payne.

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Top: Flanked by her AFJROTC instructors Master Sgt. Norman Gorden, left, and Maj. Troy Alexander, Cadet Juliana Cisneros-Prieto was excited to receive the Air Force Association Award.

Right: Cadet Katie Ortega was the recipient of the American Legion Scholastic Award, which recognizes a cadet for truly outstanding academic accomplishment and performance. The recipient must rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class, the top 25 percent of their AFJROTC class, demonstrate leadership qualities and actively participate in student activities. From left, Sgt. Norman Gorden, Ortega, Tim Gulledge of High Point American Legion Post 87 and Maj. Troy Alexander.

Photos by Debbie Hightower
JROTC

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Jared Manning received the Confederate Veterans of America Award.

Lucas Drawert-Cruz was the recipient of the Air Force Sergents’ Association Award.

Military Order of the Purple Heart Award went to Cadet Sage Carlson.

Cadet Alexander Fields called the assembly to order flanked by Maj. Troy Alexander, left, and Master Sgt. Norman Gordon.

During the AFJROTC Awards Ceremony, Cadet Rihana Pierce, left, and Cadet Heaven Horne sang the national anthem.

The JROTC program is designed to teach high school students the value of citizenship, leadership, service to the community, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment, while instilling in them self-esteem, teamwork and self-discipline.

Jared Manning, center, received the Sons of the Confederate Veterans of America Award.

Above: Trinity and Wheatmore cadets of Air Force JROTC received awards at the ceremony held in the Trinity High School gymnasium. Pictured here, Cadet Maj. Alexander Fields called the assembly to order flanked by Maj. Troy Alexander, left, and Master Sgt. Norman Gordon.

Right: American Legion Post 87 representative Tim Gulludge presented the American Legion General Military Excellence Award to Cadet Tristan Cannoy. Photos by Debbie Hightower

The American Veterans Award went to Cadet Christopher Hoover.

Daughters of the American Revolution Award was Cadet Christopher Hoover.

Major Troy Alexander, right, congratulates Cadet Heaven Horne, who received ribbons for Longevity, Dress and Appearance, Attendance, Health and Wellness, Good Conduct, Academic Achievement, Outstanding Cadet and Distinguished Unit. Later in the ceremony she would receive the 2018 Reserve Officers Association of America Award.

Major Troy Alexander, right, congratulates Cadet Heaven Horne, who received ribbons for Longevity, Dress and Appearance, Attendance, Health and Wellness, Good Conduct, Academic Achievement, Outstanding Cadet and Distinguished Unit. Later in the ceremony she would receive the 2018 Reserve Officers Association of America Award.

Major Troy Alexander presided over the ceremony with bittersweet emotions. It was her last event before graduating June 8.

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