



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2006

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DoDEA Student to Participate in Virginia's "Jamestown Live!" Teach-In

ARLINGTON, VA – Savon Bracey, an eighth-grade student at Bitburg Middle School in Bitburg, Germany will participate in "Jamestown Live! Experience the Journey that Changed the World," on November 9 in Jamestown, Va.

"Jamestown Live!" is part of several education initiatives that support the commemoration of America's 400th Anniversary of the founding at Jamestown, America's first permanent English settlement. Jamestown 2007, an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, is working with local, state and national groups to stage a memorable commemoration of America's 400th Anniversary. The commemoration began in May 2006 and will continue through 2007 with a series of national and international Signature Events commemorating aspects of the Jamestown story.

Savon's entry, "The Greensboro Sit-In: Standing Up by Sitting Down," was selected as the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Outstanding State Junior Entry and won the Jamestown Award for DoDEA. Bracey was one chosen as one of the nation's "outstanding students," with one student selected for each state. (DoDEA represents one state in the competition.) His award includes a free trip to Jamestown the first week of November to participate in "Jamestown Live!"

According to Cindy Britt, Gifted Education Teacher at Bitburg Middle School, Savon first became interested in the topic for his project after visiting the Smithsonian Museum website.

"Savon was interested in designing a project about the Civil Rights Movement," Britt said. "He saw the lunch counter from the Woolworth Store in Greensboro, N.C. on the website, researched the events behind the display, and became impressed with how much this event is treasured as part of our national history."

Britt said Savon wrote the script for the project and acted out a dramatization of the events surrounding the Greensboro Sit-In by becoming four different characters. He entered his project in Bitburg Middle School's National History Day Competition and won first place in the Individual Performance Category. In February, he competed at the Kaiserslautern, Germany district level and then won first place again in the same category in March in Heidelberg at the European level.

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His accomplishments at the European level allowed him to participate on the national level at the University of Maryland in June where he won the Junior Division Award for the DoDEA as well as the Jamestown Award for DoDEA.

The “Jamestown Live” event is a free electronic one-hour classroom program which will be broadcast from 1-2 p.m., EST, on November 9, to students and teachers in grades 4-8 via a live web cast into schools across the nation. This one-hour, fast-paced program will be hosted by veteran journalist and PBS senior correspondent Gwen Ifill, and will deliver key historic information on the founding and significance of Jamestown in an engaging and interactive format. The content will focus on three of Jamestown's enduring legacies -- exploration, cultural diversity, and democracy. Each of these themes will be presented by education experts, historians and authors during informative interviews conducted by student reporters. The program is available free on the Internet through registration at www.JamestownJourney.org.

“Savon is a pleasure to have in class,” said Britt. “He’s highly motivated, a great role model for other students and he cares about academics.”

Bracey has spent his entire life living overseas in Germany, Japan and Italy and has been a Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) student for 10 years. He will travel to Virginia with his father, Tech. Sgt. Ernest C. Bracey, to participate in “Jamestown Live!”

“I’m really excited about this whole event and I’m looking forward to seeing and experiencing what it’s all about!” said Savon. Savon’s mother, Kenya Bracey, is a DoD civilian employee in Bitburg, and he has two brothers, Matthew and Juwan. Savon’s future plans include going to college, hopefully on an academic scholarship.

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Savon Bracey demonstrates his dramatization of the “Greensboro Sit-In: Standing Up by Sitting Down,” for classmates in the gymnasium at Bitburg Middle School.
(Photo courtesy of Cindy Britt.)