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### **My NSCC Experience: The Lone Sailor Award Dinner September 15, 2010**

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 I was awarded the privilege and honor to attend the Lone Sailor Award Dinner in Washington D.C. to represent the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. This was a big honor for me, because not all cadets were given this opportunity of a lifetime. The Lone Sailor Award Dinner is a very prestigious event that honors accomplished, successful, retired Navy and Marine Corps people. This year, three very famous Navy and Marine Corps people were being recognized. Mr. Lanier Phillips, Mr. Edward LeBaron, and Mr. William Cosby were 2010's Lone Sailor Award recipients. However, before these three historical and successful people were recognized, there was a short greeting period where I met a lot of outstanding people.

I met two other cadets from local units in the DMV area. One of them, had aspirations of becoming a Navy Seal, so he and I quickly exchanged information and got together to talk about Special Ops, preparing for training, and getting ourselves ready for our future career. I also met the Naval League's National Chairman Captain Lynott and Captain Ford from NSCC Headquarters, a Medal of Honor recipient from WWII, a former Navy Seal, and a Naval Intelligence Officer. To be able to have met all these wonderful and knowledgeable people was such an honor and one hell of an experience.

Meeting the Intelligence Officer, the former Navy Seal, and PO1 Cain, helped point me in the right direction for my future. Since I want to go into Seals once I get into the Navy, I learned many things I would need to do in order to get there. I was told I need to start training now and get physically fit and maintain it. I also need to conduct research and read up on my future career. The preparation that I do now, will pay off in the long run when I reach my goal. However, I was also taught that night to strive hard for my goals, but also keep my options open. So now I'm looking at intelligence, as a back-up plan if I can't go to Seals.

After the mingling session, it was then time to present the awards. Mr. Lanier Phillips was the 1<sup>st</sup> recipient awarded. Back in WWII, he was the first African-American sonar technician and a survivor of the U.S.S Truxtun shipwreck. Mr. Edward LeBaron who was the 2<sup>nd</sup> recipient, was a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, a quarterback for the Redskins and Cowboys, and a current entrepreneur. Lastly, Mr. William Cosby was awarded. Mr. Cosby was a Navy corpsman, an actor of his many inspired TV shows, and a comedian. Being there at the dinner and seeing and hearing of these wonderful persons' accomplishments was just fascinating. It's these guys that show us, that you can do anything you want if you strive and work toward it! Not only did I learn many things that night, but this was just one great experience not many people get to witness. I enjoyed every part of it, especially Mr. Bill Cosby's comedy act!