

Cadets tops in the state

The following article is condensed from an email Stu received from Cindy T. McGeorge, secretary with the Henry Clay High School JROTC Booster Club.

I am writing to commend SFC (Retired) Brian Hunt, Major William Larkin, and the Army JROTC program from Henry Clay High School. Yesterday, 46 cadets attended and competed in the Warrior Challenge 2007 at East Ridge High School in Feds Creek, Kentucky. Teams of cadets competed in the following categories: academics, marksmanship, color guard, drill and raider. Each team placed first, second, or third in almost every event they entered and won first place overall in a tie-breaker race with Perry County Central High School. They returned home carrying 12 trophies and an individual win in the "Knock Out" drill competition.

The Color Guard and Drill teams overcame a rocky start and with extra practice and tough love within the cadet leadership, rose up to place second and third in their events. Many of the events such as Two-Mile Squad Run, Obstacle Course, One-Rope Bridge, Rock Wall, and the individual Cadet Challenge required physical strength and overall conditioning and discipline. The cross-fit program led by SFC Hunt has our team in great physical condition and made the difference in the outcome yesterday. In these areas, our Battalion shone brightly.

Each team is lead by a cadet or cadets who have earned their leadership positions and are responsible for the other members on their team. Each cadet has a "battle buddy" so that no one is ever alone. These leaders followed the daily schedule, had their teams ready and in place for each event, in some cases chose the participants, and then led the team in supporting the other teams. As a parent, I was so proud of the way the HCHS Army JROTC represented Fayette County, it brought me to tears several times.

I realize that many people are not quite sure what JROTC is all about. It is about motivating young people to be better citizens and creating our future leaders. In some cases, it is giving deserving young people a chance to rise above less than ideal home situations or influences and pave the way to college and a brighter future.

We have a valuable resource in the Army JROTC program at Henry Clay. I've had one son graduate who participated in the program, a freshman son in it now, and a younger son who can't wait for his opportunity to be in JROTC. I just thought you would enjoy hearing of their success and hard work and knowing that they represented the Fayette County School district so well.