



# SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Spring-Ford Student Selected to Participate in Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Ceremony**

### ***Photo/Media Opportunity***

**ROYERSFORD, PA** – Ben D'Arcangelo, a Spring-Ford Area School District sophomore, recently attended the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) in Washington D.C. Ben, who set a lofty goal of attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, has taken a full slate of honors courses for the past two years and participates in football, wrestling and tennis for Spring-Ford. In seeking out opportunities that would help Ben reach his goal, he registered for the National Youth Leadership Forum.

As part of the conference, there was an essay contest awarding two students the honor of participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. A week prior to leaving, Ben approached his English teacher, Katie Uhas, to edit his essay. She enthusiastically agreed and spent time both in and out of school working with Ben to perfect the essay. With more than 300 students in attendance from across the country, and over 100 entrants in the essay contest, Ben was one of two students selected for the laying of the wreath ceremony.

Congratulations to Ben, his family and his teachers - their joint effort made this once-in-a-lifetime dream come true! Read Ben's full essay:

*"As a silhouette of a soldier emerges from the mists wearing the colors proudly, he fights with and for his brothers around him. Who is this soldier? It is irrelevant. However, what this soldier represents is the pinnacle of service. He embodies a 'leave no man behind' paradigm that is of the oldest military tradition.*

*The prodigious idea about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier serves as both a living reminder of the fallen but those who also serve today. The fact that the tomb is guarded 24 hours a day 365 days a year honors and represents the kind of sacrifice paid by men and women through our nations history. Coming from a long line of military service in my family placing the wreath would be honoring not only my heritage but also the men and women who make this country great through their service. I continue to honor our servicemen and women today by the work that I do in the Civil Air Patrol.*



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*Having two parents who both served as active duty Air Force officers and my father having a service-connected disability when I see veterans I make a point to thank them for their service. This is how I started to see the importance behind our military members and it makes me desire to give back even more. Hearing stories of my parents experiences, the people they met, and their jobs helps me realize the oath these people make to the United States is one of the highest honors. Even though my parents stopped being on active duty when I was very young whenever I visit military installations I see the respect that all of them have for the people they encounter. All of these traits that these men and women display are what make me want to be part of them even more.*

*My involvement with the Civil Air Patrol has allowed me to gain a bigger role in service of my community. This organization has given me many opportunities to be involved from Memorial Day ceremonies, 4th of July wreath laying ceremonies, and search and rescue missions. These occasions give me a great appreciation and love for the Americans who serve. Civil Air Patrol has given me the opportunity, as a young adult, to help aid and serve the fallen as part of the United States Air Force Auxiliary. Since middle school I have wanted to attend a service academy upon graduation because I felt drawn to military service. It was not until my involvement and advancement in Civil Air Patrol that I realized what service in the military was all about.*

*Being chosen for the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery is one of the greatest honors a civilian could ever be bestowed with. Having witnessed sacrifice in my own family I am developing an understanding of what service means. It is a great desire of mine to participate in this seemingly small but profoundly meaningful ceremony."*

**CONTACT:** Ben may be contact for comment via his father, David D'Arcangelo at [David.DArcangelo@sig.com](mailto:David.DArcangelo@sig.com) or 610.290.2662.

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