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2/5/10

NEWS RELEASE – “LAWS OF LIFE AWARDS BANQUET SCHEDULED”

The thirteenth Annual *Law of Life* Awards Banquet, honoring Collier County students, will be held at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 9th, at The Collier Athletic Club. The *Laws of Life* student essay contest program is a character building activity that helps young people focus on and develop positive character traits that lead to successful citizenship and a successful life. Students in grades 4-12 are invited to write an essay/speech that causes them to reflect upon an important character trait and to explain how it influences their life and the lives of others.

Essays were submitted by 3,780 students from across the county. Forty semi-finalists presented their papers orally in front of a Blue Ribbon Panel of judges. From these, four finalists in each of the four categories (4-5, 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12 grades) were selected. The order of the finalists will be announced at the banquet, and the first place winner from each category will deliver his/her speech at the banquet. Students will receive awards ranging from \$100 to \$2,000.00 including the Bonnie MacKenzie-Loveday *Laws of Life* Memorial Scholarship. The program also includes recognition of the student from each school whose essay received the highest ranking of all the essays submitted from their school. These school winners will be notified following the banquet and will receive a cash award for their accomplishment.

To learn more about *Laws of Life*, contact Nina Ribinski, school district coordinator of the competition, at 377-0134. Or send an e-mail to ribinsni@collier.k12.fl.us.