

JROTC instructor earns state honors from VFW Auxiliary

Golden Gate High School Senior Army JROTC Instructor Lt. Col. (Ret.) Paul Garrah has been named the Florida Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year for grades 9-12.

Garrah received his award, Jan. 16, during the Department of Florida's VFW mid-winter Conference, Jan. 16, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

"What a wonderful experience and truly a great honor to be recognized as the Florida Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year," he said. "There were about 350 people in attendance and I spoke all about our school, country, students, support to and from our community and of course the D.C. trip."

Garrah credited his students, parents, colleagues and community for their support over the past six years.

"I told the veterans on hand, I loved being in the Army 22 years, but I love being a teacher and doing what I am doing now," he says. "In many ways it is far more important."

The award is given by the Department of Florida Veterans of Foreign Wars and is presented to the state's top elementary, junior high, and



Florida Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Paul Garrah with Donna Howard, president of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary for District 13. / SUBMITTED

high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions.

In order to be selected as the state's top high school teacher, Garrah had to win at the local level and then at the district level. According to Army officials, Garrah is the

first JROTC instructor to win this award at the Florida state level.

Garrah earned the distinction based on numerous letters of recommendation submitted to the Department of Florida VFW. He will also compete for the National Citizenship Education Teachers award.



Cpl. Jessie Todd and his dog, Kasper, present a K-9 demonstration as part of Safety Fest, Jan. 16, at the Collier County Fairgrounds. The event included presentations by deputies and firefighters on various departments, including mounted patrol, bomb squad, aviation, marine, traffic and agriculture units. / DONN BROWN

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