2013

Essay Category

First Place "[illegible]," by [illegible]

sailor in front of me. The Navy looks good on him! The pristine dress-white uniform tailors to his athletic physique. He savors his coffee: [illegible] Illinois. Boot Camp is an eight-week program. [illegible] transformation has happened.

Twenty years old and about to embark [illegible] tour of duty. This aircraft carrier frequently visits Japan, Thailand, and Australia.

[illegible] pronounced. It matches angles of his steps. "In the Navy, we don't cut [illegible] textbook. Muscle memory nags at him; he should be sitting on his book. To him feeling a comfy cushion is

The waitress brings us another round of coffee. Listening to Mitch sharing stories [illegible] full attention. [illegible] bothered me."

"Everyone has a br[illegible] personal, zone, bunk, and locker. However, it broke my heart when I found out that despite no fault of my [illegible] left unbuttoned, a loose string or a bad shave. I was furious that one guy being too lazy to double check his [illegible] were marched to the NEX (Navy Exchange) and forced to stand at attention and watch while all the other divisions got to call their parents. [illegible] it be known, I aced Basic with a 5.0 average on all my inspections and a 4.6 on tests."

[illegible] like one of those great supporting actors in Hollywood films. He removes his hand from his pocket and extends it to Mitch, looking him dead center in the eyes. "I envy you to ..." He begins and I can't breathe ...

[illegible] prentice Mitchell [illegible] sudden regress to the vocabulary of [illegible] enjoy the rest of your day." Then, he walks away.

[illegible] gratitude directed toward my child. Mitch breaks the solitude. "We were told at Boot Camp that when we [illegible]

Honor winners. It's for all those that came before me. I must maintain my bearing and I must accept any [illegible]

[illegible] overriding belief that Mitch understands his purpose and is acutely aware of being an integral part of [illegible]

I can." Not me. My motherly emotion strangely [illegible]

Judge's Comments

[illegible] urning to the Navy [illegible]

"His posture is pe[illegible] apparent toward the end of the essay, in a near role