

## Essex High School Grad promoted to Brigadier General

**Burlington Free Press June 27, 2015**



Retired Vermont Judge Edward Cashman, left, administers the oath Friday to his son, Air Force Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Cashman, in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. (Photo: U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill)

An Essex native was sworn in as brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force on Friday at the Pentagon. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Cashman, who graduated 30 years ago this week from Essex High School, received his first star during a promotional ceremony in the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon.

Brig. Gen. Cashman was a 1985 winner of the **Vermont American Legion Oratorical Competition**. He is not the first Vermont winner to excel in professional pursuits.

1995 Clarke Baker (South Burlington HS) co-founder and director of SchoolSpring

1957 Judge Frank Mahady (Hartford HS)

1981 Robert Irion (Vergennes UHS) cover feature of National Geographic July 2013

1978, 1979 Stephen Farnsworth (Vergennes UHS) Professor of Political Science and International Affairs and Director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington

1976, 1977 LeRoy Watson (Bellow Falls UHS) Special Director for Trademark Protection and Brand Management for the National Grange

The Oratorical Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

College. Money. Two words that go hand-in-hand. It takes a lot of money to pay for a college education. For high school students, there is a way to actually talk your way to college. Each year The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program awards over \$138,000 in college scholarships.

## **Eligibility**

Eligible participants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school). The curriculum of the school must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department that they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition through only one department.

Contact Karlene DeVine, Vermont Department Chairwoman, Oratorical Program. (802)877-6392 or [kdevine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdevine@myfairpoint.net) for details. Find out today how you can get involved and talk your way to college.