

Creative Poetry Contest to honor the
Men and Women of the Armed Services Deploying
To Afghanistan in May 2009 from Jasper, AL

The *Friends of the 877th National Guard Unit* are requesting submissions of poetry to be shared and read by the author during the May 2nd Celebration for our deploying troops.

The Contest consists of competition in one division, Grades 6-12. Poems can be rhymed or free verse up to 60 lines but must NOT have been published previously.

Any student in Grades 6-12 in any school in Walker County is encouraged to compete in this poetry contest.

**PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING
THE CONTEST**

School Level. Each school selects their top three winning entries and sends these entries to the local superintendent by **April 15, 2009**. The Superintendent will batch them all together and contact the Friends of the 877th to arrange pickup.

CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

For system entries, one hard copy must be provided as well as the original. All entries should be single-spaced in Times or Times New Roman Font, size 12, and are limited to a 1 page maximum.

All entries must be the student's own work and must have been written during the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

The **supporting** (second) **page** of the entry must show the following:

- ✓ *Student's name,*
- ✓ *Home address,*
- ✓ *Home e-mail address,*
- ✓ *Grade level,*
- ✓ *School,*
- ✓ *School system,*
- ✓ *Teacher's name,*
- ✓ *Teacher's or school's e-mail address.*

Title of each entry must appear on the first page of the text with **no other identifying marks or information on that page**

Teachers and judges are to ensure originality at each level.

Entries not following requirements may not be eligible for judging.

Schools and school systems are encouraged to offer prizes at each level of competition with awards and publicity help to further the contest goal of rewarding excellence in writing. One nominal First Place Award will be offered for the best overall entry by the Friends of the 877th.

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTING
WINNERS**

All entries in the writing contest will be judged by an independent panel of the Friends of the 877th based in part on the following criteria: significance of content: word choice, imagery, and style; form or organization; grammar; and mechanics.

For further information, contact Brenda Gann, Director *pro tempore* of the *ad hoc* organization "Friends of the 877th" at (205) 387-9398 or by e-mail at scarlotrose@yahoo.com or contact Paul Kennedy, at (205) 302-0001, pkennedy@wacf.org.