

District News

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Henry "Sarge" Powell Honored

Receives MD AAU's first "Overcoming Adversity" Award



Henry "Sarge" Powell (left) receiving the First Benjamin F. DuBose "Overcoming Adversity" Award from MD AAU Governor Ben DuBose. (Photo by Melvin Vines)

By McCarroll Nole

We have all faced adversity in one form or another. No matter the age, gender, economic status or race, during our circle of life, we will have many meetings with adversity. Sometimes the severity of our adversity rocks the very foundation of our lives. It will test our courage, our character, our mental and physical toughness, our determination, and our faith.

Often the fight to overcome adversity is not ours alone. Our family and community help us to get through it. Now on the other side of adversity, we can get stuck in "why me" or we can pick ourselves up and get back into the race of life and make or continue to make a contribution.

One of those very special individuals who got back in the race is Benjamin DuBose, AAU's Maryland District Governor. In 2014 Benjamin contracted prostate cancer. Cancer delivered him a devastating blow, but with a boat load of courage, an unshakable faith and a team of skilled physicians,

Ben fought to live. Though he was quite ill, Ben continued to lead the effort to provide sports programs to the youth of Maryland. Ben continues in his role as Governor and today lives cancer free. So, to honor Ben's courage, determination, gallant fight, and his contribution to his community, the Maryland AAU established the Benjamin F. DuBose Overcoming Adversity Award.

The Overcoming Adversity award is presented annually to two kids between the ages of 8 and 18 and one adult who has demonstrated integrity, courage, and determination in overcoming adversity after which he or she has contributed to their community.

This award focuses on victims of an organic illness, an impairing physical injury or a severe life circumstance. The award also includes a two year membership to AAU, an AAU gold medal, a recognition award and an invitation to AAU's annual banquet.

There was a single recipient of the award at the annual banquet, which was held Sunday, November 8, 2014 at Martin's East to honor athletes, coaches and supporters. The recipient was Henry "Sarge" Powell. After coaching 10 year old kids for 40 years, in 2000 Henry contracted prostate cancer. After overcoming the shock of it all, and 6 months of treatment and recuperation, doctors declared Henry cancer free.

Sarge returned to work at the Internal Revenue Service and coaching. Life was good until a visit to his doctor in 2008 revealed a tumor that turned out to be colon cancer.

Sarge discontinued coaching for 8 months while recuperating. He was again declared cancer free. Following advance radiology in April 2015 Sarge continues to live cancer free and continues to coach for the Madison Buccaneers.



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MD AAU Reaches Out to Local Charter School

By McCarroll Nole

In the small community of Winston, located in the Northeast section of Baltimore City, sits the Banneker Blake Academy of Sciences and the Arts; a 2015 first year start up charter school that was developed by community members who saw a need for a school for boys.

The Academy is an extended day, extended year public charter school for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys that offers a science, technology, engineering and math curriculum. The academy was named for author, astronomer, and inventor Benjamin Banneker and pianist and songwriter Eubie Blake, both born in or near Baltimore.

The eighty Academy students comport to a strict code of dress, ethics and conduct. Parents enhance the Academy through serving on the Board, assisting in the recruitment and application process, and fundraising.

Charter schools, as a rule, are not fully funded by the school district. They must find other ways to secure funding and support. Banneker Blake did not receive a grant to fully fund its after school program. A break-in resulted in forty student lap top computers being stolen. A second break-in saw three staff computers taken. The school needed a rally towel to support the moral of its student body. A request was made to the basketball operations division of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) by Boys Basketball Sports



Director Benjamin DuBose, who sits on the Academy's Board, to donate items that might serve as a rallying towel for the students. AAU, the largest youth sports organization in the country with over 700,000 members, supplied academy students with beautiful black jackets. Students are grateful to AAU and are excited to wear with pride their new jackets.

James Parker, Director of Sports-AAU Headquarters stated, "Giving back to the community we serve is so important. The National AAU Headquarters has great relationships with many communities across the United States. It only made sense to us to assist the Maryland District in their efforts to affect positive change amongst children in their community."



8-Under Boys Basketball National Tournament Comes to Maryland!



The Maryland District Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) has partnered with Wicomico County Recreation, Parks and Tourism to host the AAU Boys Basketball National Tournament for eight year olds and under. The tournament, which will be held July 5-10, 2016, will be the first national championship to be held in the Maryland District.

A \$100 discount and free practice time will be given to early registrants. Local teams that play in the Maryland District Tournament will receive an additional discount to participate in the National Tournament. All games will be played in one location-under one roof and teams will receive discounted lodging. **Need more info? Call 410-340-0635 TODAY!**

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