



## **EXCEPTIONAL *NEW JERSEY* TEEN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS HONOR, NAMED ‘NEW JERSEY MILITARY YOUTH OF THE YEAR’**

*Victor A. Oluwagbemi Receives \$6,000 College Scholarship From Boys & Girls Clubs In New Jersey And Boys & Girls Clubs Of America – To Vie For Northeast Region Title This June*

Clifton, NJ, May 24, 2021 – Victor from Fort Dix Youth Center has been named the New Jersey Military Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey and Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. Now in its 74<sup>th</sup> year, the program honors our nation’s most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures. As the New Jersey Military Youth of the Year, Victor will serve as an ambassador for teens throughout the state. Victor will receive a \$6,000 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey and Boys & Girls Clubs of America and will go on to contend for the regional Youth of the Year and ultimately the national title.

Victor has been a Club member at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst for 14 years, where he has participated in many Club programs that helped him to become the leader he is today. Presently, he serves in a dual capacity as President and Secretary of the Keystone Club; a teen group dedicated to leadership and community service. From this Club, Victor developed a strong passion for volunteering including food and clothing drives for homeless shelters, nursing homes, hospitals, and Dorm Airmen on base. In 2020, Victor designed masks and T-shirts to create awareness of the effects of Domestic Violence and Teen Violence. Victor is a Mentor for Passport to Manhood and Power Hour Club programs. Victor has maintained a 3.84 GPA while attending Pemberton Township High School (PTHS). He was elected as the PTHS Youth delegate for the American Legion Jersey’s Boys State.

Victor is also a Peer Mentor Assistant for Pemberton High School, where he also serves on several teams and clubs. He earned the 2020 Voice of Democracy Merit Certificate Award for being an Outstanding Spokesperson of Freedom. Victor will attend Ramapo College of New Jersey, majoring in Law and Society with a minor in Business. His career aspiration is to be a Corporate Lawyer, so he can “give back” to the community that has been so generous to him.

“We are incredibly proud of Victor and all the Youth of the Year nominees,” said Susan Haspel, State Director of Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey. “Being named Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor. As the New Jersey Military Youth of the Year, Victor will serve as a spokesperson for kids and teens across the state who face the many unique challenges associated with military life.”

Founded in 1947 as Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year recognizes outstanding contributions to a member’s family, school, community and Boys & Girls

Club. The Youth of the Year program is supported by Toyota and Mondelēz. As the Signature Sponsor of Youth of the Year, Toyota is committed to partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to ensure local Clubs provide life-enhancing opportunities for kids and teens to explore, develop and apply the essential skills they need to be successful in life and work. As the Lead Sponsor of Youth of the Year, Mondelēz International, will engage with local Clubs year-round to help foster a new generation of leaders prepared to live in and lead a diverse global economy. Youth of the Year representatives are the workforce leaders, innovators and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

This June, Victor will compete for the title of Northeast Region Military Youth of the Year and an additional \$20,000 college scholarship. Five regional winners will advance to the virtual National Youth of the Year event in September 2021 to compete for the title of National Military Youth of the Year. The final stage of the journey, National Youth of the Year, presents the opportunity to receive an additional scholarship of \$50,000 and a brand-new Toyota Corolla.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit [www.youthoftheyear.org](http://www.youthoftheyear.org).

#### **About Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey**

Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is an alliance of 22 Boys & Girls Club organizations serving more than 71,000 youth ages 5-18 throughout the Garden State. Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey is a collaborative effort representing all 22 Clubs with the purpose of building local Club capacity; raising public awareness; and securing resources and financial support to increase the impact and reach of NJ Clubs. Learn more at [www.bgcnj.org](http://www.bgcnj.org)

#### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

For 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America ([BGCA.org](http://BGCA.org)) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,700 Clubs serve over 4.6 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Club programs promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 54 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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