

CLUB PHOTO FEATURE



Private First Class Ashley Carey is a Paralegal for the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C. She has been invited to apply to West Point. Her grandfather is Leo Stekkinger, Detective, Port Police K-9 Unit. "Stephanie: Thank you for your service and sacrifice, to make this the home of the free, because of the brave."
—Robin Stekkinger, proud mother



Ashley Carey




Arthur E. James

Sgt. First Class Arthur E. James, nephew of Sandra (James) Haywood, City Attorney's Office, is a medic and medical instructor in his second stint. He's stationed in Iraq and has spent time in Germany, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Croatia, Hungary and throughout the United States. He was deployed to Iraq in September.

The Club in the Armed Forces


If you have a family member in the military and would like to honor them in *Alive!*, please send in a photo and include their name, their branch of military service, where they're stationed, your City department, and any other information about them that you would like to include, to:

Alive! Military Service Recognition
City Employees Club
350 S. Figueroa St. Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071 • talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



Scholarship recipient Ra'Kenna Joseph (second from left) is congratulated by (from left) her mother, Belinda Crawford; her aunt, Sharon Moore, a long-time WPAAA member and DWP employee; and Marie Lemelle, president of WPAAA.

WPAAA Scholarship Awards



Standing, from left: Carol Fort, WPAAA Board Member; and students Courtni Jackson; Allison Bragg; Riana Scarbrough; Briche Williams; and Le'Lani Brown, and Marie Lemelle, President of WPAAA. Seated are students Tiyaanah Bevel; Brittney Brown; Jazmine Sullivan; and Ra'Kenna Joseph. De' Jon Perkins was unable to attend.

Water and Power African American Association promotes African American achievement and higher education by honoring college-bound students.

Story by Marie Y. Lemelle, WPAAA President and Club Member; Photos by Sabir Majeed

DWP — Recently, ten college-bound students received certificates of achievement and scholarship awards from the Water and Power African American Association (WPAAA) at the 16th annual WPAAA Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, held at the DWP Headquarters downtown.

The awardees were Courtni Jackson; Allison Bragg; Riana Scarbrough; Briche Williams; Le'Lani Brown; Tiyaanah Bevel; Brittney Brown; Jazmine Sullivan; Ra'Kenna Joseph; and De' Jon Perkins.

The Water and Power African American Association, established in 1991, strives to "strengthen the foundation of African American employees at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power by advancing the employment, education, economic, and social welfare of its members and the community." To that end,

WPAAA's mantra is "Promoting African American Achievement and Higher Education."

Every year, WPAAA members seek out and the Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to deserving young students who, WPAAA believes, will contribute to humanity. WPAAA is a strong advocate of education, mentoring, and community service and endeavors to recruit others with a like mindset. Many of the nominees are the children, siblings, relatives, friends, or neighbors of a WPAAA member. During the review process, the WPAAA Scholarship Committee takes into consideration the challenges students must overcome to reach their education goals. The scholarship recipients are either recently graduated college bound high school students or students completing a Bachelor's degree.

"This scholarship will assist me with my final year as an undergraduate student. I am indebted to this organization and its members for their constant support and encouragement over my years as an African American college student," said Ra'Kenna Joseph, a senior with a double major in Communication Studies and African American Studies at Loyola



Marymount University in Los Angeles.

"One of these members happens to be my mother, whom has been a member of WPAAA for 15 years and an employee of the Department of Water and Power for more than 25 years," she said. "I would not be the woman I am today if it had not been for her guidance and strength. I would like to thank my mother, my family, the selection committee and the WPAAA members for their generosity. Thank you for helping me achieve my goals."

"Awarding scholarships to deserving students is a great and meaningful way to recognize and reward them for their academic achievements," said John Lockett, First Vice President of WPAAA. "This year, we are proud to

distribute among the 10 recipients a total of \$7,000."

The funding from the scholarship is derived from monthly dues contributed by the WPAAA members. "In accordance with the bylaws of WPAAA, we set aside 40 percent of the annual collected dues," said Angela Franklin, WPAAA Treasurer and a Management Analyst at the DWP.

"The scholarship process consisted of preparing and reviewing the scholarship application package, sending out the package to WPAAA members, receiving and inspecting the applications, evaluating the applications, compiling the final scores, and sending out letters of awards," explained Leslie Sorhaindo, an Electrical Engineering Associate and who served as the chair of the Scholarship Committee. Sorhaindo has been a City and DWP employee for 26 years and a WPAAA member since its inception. "I am grateful to the scholarship committee members, Joe Forson and Ruben Eyong, for their time and effort."

For more information about WPAAA, go to www.wpaaa.org.