

Two teenagers gain scholarships

**New York youth selected as 1988 Royal Ranger of the Year**

John Caputo, 18, of Yorktown Heights, N.Y., was selected as 1988 Royal Ranger of the Year. John, who represented the Northeast Region in the competition, qualified for a \$1,000 college scholarship.

First runner-up was Benjamin Comer, 17, of Berwick, La., the Gulf Region representative. Benjamin qualified for a \$500 scholarship.

Funding for the scholarships is provided equally by the

national Education Department and the national Royal Rangers office. Royal Rangers is a program of the Men's Ministries Department.

The two who gained scholarship honors were chosen from boys representing the eight regions of the U.S. More than 125,000 boys take part in the Royal Rangers program nationwide.

The honors were presented at the Royal Ranger of the Year

Banquet held in Springfield, Mo., last July. Selections were made following several days of testing, demonstrations of knowledge and skills, and personal interviews by the 1988 Royal Ranger of the Year review board, chaired by Silas L. Gaither, national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

Ranger of the Year John Caputo is the son of John and Joyce Caputo. The family attends Yorktown Heights Assembly, pastored by Clayton B. Glickert. John is active in his church youth group and is a commander with the church's Buckaroos. He graduated from high school this spring and had distinguished himself in the school's NROTC program, the National Honor Society, and the Society of Distinguished High School Students. John earned several scholarships for his academic abilities.

John said his goals are to serve the Lord and his country as a Christian witness and to study astronautical engineering and physics. He said his long-term goals include someday becoming president of the United States.

First runner-up Ben Comer is the son of James and Louise Comer. The family attends Berwick First Assembly, pastored by George F. Harden.

Ben helps clean the church and change the church sign weekly; he has been a youth group officer; and he is active in a nursing home ministry.

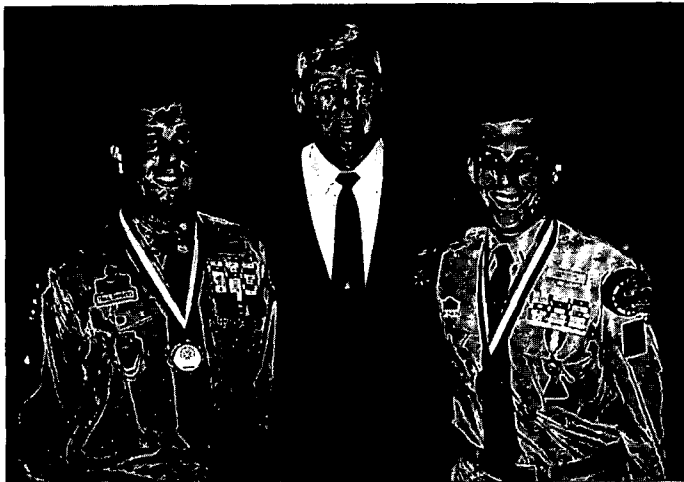
Ben was listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students" for 2 years. He is active in several school organizations. Ben testified at the banquet that God had healed his foot after a severe injury which the doctor said would keep him from competitive sports. Now he is on the football and basketball teams at school and enjoys lifting weights.

In the future, Ben said he hopes to get a degree in education which he said will help him in ministry to young people.

Other regional representatives in the competition were Dannon Braun (Southeast), Kevin Bushnell (North Central), Joe Eisenman (Southwest), Scott Harms (Northwest), and Scott King (Great Lakes).

(Ronnie Sullivan, representing the South Central region, was forced to miss the competition by an emergency appendectomy.)

All eight regional finalists received certificate plaques and bronze medals with ribbons for their Royal Rangers achievements. □



Top photo: Royal Rangers National Commander Johnnie Barnes congratulates first runner-up Ben Comer (left) and Royal Ranger of the Year John Caputo (right). Bottom photo: Regional finalists were: (seated, left to right) Dannon Braun, Southeast; Ben Comer, Gulf; Kevin Bushnell, North Central; (standing, left to right) Scott Harms, Northwest; John Caputo, Northeast; Joe Eisenman, Southwest; and Scott King, Great Lakes. Ronnie Sullivan, South Central, was unable to be present because he underwent an emergency appendectomy a few days before the final competition began.

**At a Glance**

■ "Now Choose Life" is the theme for the October 1988 Christian Values Month in the Assemblies of God. The theme, based on Deuteronomy 30:19,20, encourages making positive choices: choosing Christ; choosing selectively in TV viewing and reading material; choosing life as opposed to abortion or suicide; choosing not to be involved in substance abuse; and choosing good citizenship activities. A resource packet for churches, available from the Office of Information in Springfield, Mo., will include information on ordering Assemblies of God position papers, American Bible Society literature related to the theme, and lists of related Gospel Publishing House books and cassette tapes. A videotape on the "Now Choose Life" theme, featuring Revivaltime Speaker Dan Betzer, will be available through the Audiovisual Department.

■ Despite stock market trouble, tax law changes, and televangelism scandals, charitable contributions in the U.S. soared to record levels in 1987. According to a report in the National & International Religion Report newsletter, donations from individuals amounted to \$76.82 billion of a \$93.68 billion total. Religious organizations received \$43.61 billion of the total contributed. (Figures came from the American Association of Fund-raising Counsel.)