

STRONG MEN & WOMEN



IN VIRGINIA HISTORY

PROMPT

“Boys, the old flag never touched the ground.”

During the momentous Civil War attack on Fort Wagner in 1863, Sergeant William H. Carney, a soldier in the Massachusetts 54th Colored Infantry, retrieved the unit’s American flag from the stricken flag bearer and kept it aloft, despite being wounded several times himself. For his bravery, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, becoming the first African American to be awarded the nation’s highest military honor.

Carney’s statement (shown above), reportedly delivered to his fellow soldiers after the battle, reveals the zeal and pride he felt in serving

WRITING CONTEST

Submit your 400-word essay by **Friday, November 14, 2014**, for a chance to win an Apple iPad Air and \$1,000 for your school!

CONTEST OVERVIEW

High school students in Virginia are invited to honor outstanding African Americans by participating in Dominion Resources’ and the Library of Virginia’s **Strong Men & Women in Virginia History** student writing contest. Four winning essays will be chosen, one from each of the four regions in Virginia that Dominion serves.

his country. Preserving the integrity of the flag was symbolic of his patriotism, even though he and most African Americans were treated as less than equal during—and after—the war by most white Americans.

How does Sgt. Carney’s heroism inspire you? Why do you think this former slave felt so strongly about the flag not touching the ground? Have you ever been in a position that was unfair? Do you know an African American—past or present—who was in a position that was unfair and yet rose above it? Describe the situation, its significance, and the lessons it teaches about perseverance and overcoming obstacles in the face of adversity.

CONTEST RULES

Entries must be submitted online by **Friday, November 14, 2014**.

Each entrant must be a high school student at a public or private high school in one of Dominion’s four regional service areas in Virginia. Homeschoolers may also apply; the \$1,000 school award can be applied to a homeschooler association if the winner’s family has an active, dues-paying membership.

All entries must be original works that have not been published or submitted for publication anywhere else.

Entry should not exceed 400 words.

Entries become the property of the Library of Virginia and will not be returned.

The Library of Virginia and Dominion reserve the right to use the winners’ names and entries for promotional purposes in all forms of media without notice, review, approval, or compensation, except where prohibited by law.

Submit entries to: WWW.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/SMW

TIMELINE

Deadline for entries is Friday, November 14, 2014.

Winners will be notified by December 15, 2014.

Winning essays will be posted to both the Library of Virginia (www.lva.virginia.gov/smw) and Dominion (www.dom.com, keyword “strong”) websites on January 7, 2015.

Awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, in Richmond.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Content—Reflection of careful and thorough thought

Focus—Prompt questions answered and main idea clearly articulated

Support—Relevant, quality details about important thoughts and concepts

Style—Essay flows well and shows good word choice and structure

Mechanics—Correct use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation

WINNERS

Winning students will receive an Apple iPad Air.

Winning students’ schools will receive a cash award of \$1,000 at the award ceremony in February. Each winner and a school representative must attend the ceremony to receive their awards. Dominion will provide overnight accommodations for out-of-town winners.

GOOD LUCK!

Questions?

Please call **804.692.3999** or e-mail education@lva.virginia.gov.

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