

Ceremonies to take place Jan. 30 in Annapolis.

BY RICH SANDERS
GAZETTE

The Mid-Atlantic Recreation & Parks' Sports Alliance's Sportsmanship

Award Ceremony will be held on Monday, Jan. 30, 2006 at the Maryland State House in Annapolis. There will be a reception from 7 to 8 p.m. at the State House. At 8 p.m., **Jalen Bailey**, Alexandria's youth recipient, and **Leonard "Chick" Armstrong**, Alexandria's coach recipient, will be recognized in the House Chamber along with other recipients in the MARPSA.

Jalen Bailey has participated in the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Youth Sports Section for over six years. Jalen is a sixth grader at the George Washington Middle School where he has a current GPA of 2.65. He has received several awards from school for Citizenship, Honor Roll and Leadership. He has also been recognized by the Cora Kelly Recreation Center for both the sportsmanship and leadership he has shown through social and sports related activities. He participates in the Life Enrichment and Jumpstart Programs.

Bailey has participated for six years in baseball in the recreation department program and the Alexandria Little League, where he made the all-stars in 2005. He has participated for five years in the youth basketball program, making the all-stars in 2003 and 2004. He has played soccer within the Alexandria Soccer Association for two years, played football with the Alexandria Titans Youth Football Program for one year, and participated in track and field for one year.

Young Jalen is a well-mannered and respectful young man who has shown consistent leadership and dedication to his teammates, coaches and friends. **Leonard 'Chick' Armstrong** has served as a youth football and basketball coach with the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities for over 35 years. Armstrong has touched the lives of thousands of youth during this period. He is seen by many as being more than an athletic team coach because of the countless hours per week he has spent over the years mentoring and counseling youth on values of getting an education, avoiding drugs and other negative behaviors, and being a positive role model to other youngsters in the community. Armstrong has been known to purchase athletic shoes and other basic necessities for youth to participate on athletic teams. He makes a positive difference in the

lives of many children that participate on his teams by consistently providing the guidance, structure and discipline that they need. Many of the children that have been coached by Armstrong have gone on to be productive citizens in Alexandria and throughout the metropolitan area.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Armstrong also serves as Commissioner of the Johnson-Siebert Summer Adult Basketball League that is held annually. For eight years, the program, consisting of 12 teams, has served hundreds of adults.

Armstrong has willingly volunteered his time and resources to work with children, teenagers and adults in the City's recreation leagues. He has found time to do this even while working for the Metro Transit Authority and working as owner and operator of 'Chick Carryout' in Alexandria.

Armstrong's dedication to children and his commitment to community over the years has won the respect and admiration of many in the City of Alexandria.

