

For immediate release
January 19, 2010

Press contact: Erin Foley
Marketing/PR Coordinator
(708) 458-7600, Ext. 252

Peace Senior, Teacher Honored by VFW Post 177

Queen of Peace social studies teacher Joyce Cruse was recognized as “Teacher of the Year” on Dec. 14 by the McDonald-Linn VFW Post 177. Cruse submitted five letters of recommendation and was nominated by Peace president/principal Dr. Kathleen Hanlon.

“I felt honored and was completely surprised,” said Cruse, whose American Government: Law and Politics students are currently engaged in a project entitled, “How to Make the World a Better Place.” They have already baked desserts for 19 families who are staying at the Ronald McDonald House affiliated with Hope Children’s Hospital in Oak Lawn, visited Rosary Hill Home, a retirement facility, to sing Christmas carols and play card and board games with the residents, and made and sold jewelry to benefit Bonaventure House, a residential facility sponsored by the Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry.

“I have worked with high school students for 25 years, and I have always believed in the power of one person to make a difference,” Cruse said. “We live in a great country and democracy is precious. We must recognize the importance of each student’s voice and create opportunities to practice good and effective citizenship.”

Senior Emily Boyle also was recognized with a certificate Dec. 14 by the McDonald-Linn VFW Post 177 for her essay related to Voice of Democracy, a nation-wide essay and recording contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars addressing the question, “Does America Still Have Heroes?”

“I found the question to be very intriguing because I knew that the answer was obviously yes – of course America still has heroes,” Boyle said. “But I wanted to discuss the topic in a

creative manner. I tried to address the idea of everyday heroes and their simplistic, yet vitally important deeds.”

####