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For Immediate Release

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Henderson Students Win State History Competition *Pair to Compete at Nationals in June*

Very few can claim much good ever came as a result of the Watergate scandal of the 1970s. Yet Mary Ellen Henderson students Fae Montgomery and Nora Overby, who weren't even born when the burglars broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters on that early June morning, can site chapter and verse on both the good and the bad.

The students' knowledge of the event that led to President Richard M. Nixon's downfall helped propel them to victory at the Virginia National History Day (NHD) competition in Colonial Williamsburg this past weekend. The annual competition provides students with opportunities to learn historical content and to develop research, thinking and communication skills through the study of history. The theme for this year's challenge is "Conflict and Compromise in History."

"I have seen students completely transformed by this process," Virginia NHD Coordinator Tab Broyles said. "The competition stimulates them to strive for excellence and develops lifelong thinking and presentation skills."

Because Montgomery and Overby took top honors in group performance in the state contest, they've earned the privilege of competing at the national level in College Park, Maryland in June. In that contest, they will face the best 99 groups culled from more than 600,000 students in grades six through 12 from across the United States.

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