



Unbreakable Crowns Academic Excellence Award Winner

Elizabeth Cate (“Catie”) DeMartino

Military Children 2025 World Expo

To every young scholar, dreamer, and doer who strives for more — this crown is for you.

The Unbreakable Crowns Academic Excellence Award honors not just intelligence, but the enduring commitment to learning, service, and growth. It celebrates those who rise above the standard, who shape their potential into purpose, and who lead with compassion and resilience.

Today, we proudly recognize **Elizabeth Cate (“Catie”) DeMartino** — a trailblazer, a leader, and a role model for students everywhere.

Meet the Winner: Catie DeMartino

Academic powerhouse. Thoughtful leader. Compassionate advocate.

Catie’s academic journey began with boldness. At just four years old, she joined the Spanish immersion program at Washington International School — with no Spanish background. Since then, her dedication to excellence has been unmatched.

By 6th grade, Catie was already enrolled in high school-level Algebra. Today, as a high school junior, she has completed **six AP courses** — earning **perfect scores of 5 on every exam** — and has taken on **dual-enrollment college-level math**, including Multivariable Calculus and Linear Algebra. In her senior year, she plans to add Differential Equations and Discrete Math to her résumé, alongside more AP courses.

But Catie’s brilliance is matched by her **humility and heart**.

She has served as a **Teaching Assistant for AP Calculus**, contributed to Science Olympiad and Science Bowl (qualifying for state championships all three years), and earned memberships in both the **National Junior Honor Society** and **National Honor Society**.

Academics Inspired by Service, Leadership & Athletics

Catie’s achievements are not confined to the classroom.

- A **Girl Scout since age 4**, she has earned the Bronze and Silver Awards, and contributed over **175 hours** of service to animals, children with disabilities, and national causes such as **Wreaths Across America**.
- Her commitment to public service inspired studies at **Virginia Tech (veterinary science)** and **NYU (criminal justice)** shaping a vision of impact through law and community change.

- As a **theatre leader**, she has served as **Assistant Tech Director** and was accepted as **Tech Director** for her senior year. She also contributed behind the scenes at the **Kennedy Center's regional high school theater awards**.
- In **athletics**, Catie has played club and JV softball and volunteers at youth clinics, promoting confidence and team spirit in younger players.

Why She Embodies the Unbreakable Crown

Catie has faced personal and academic challenges with determination and grace. As the middle child between two siblings with ADHD, she has developed patience, strength, and empathy. Injuries forced her to make tough choices in sports, but she always prioritized her mental health and academic goals. Through it all, she has never stopped encouraging others.

As a leader on her softball team, she lifts every voice, making sure no player feels invisible. She leads not with authority, but with understanding — modeling what it means to build others up while staying grounded.

Catie's resilience is not about perfection. It's about persistence. It's about showing up, working hard, learning from setbacks, and inspiring others to do the same.

Her crown is not just academic — it is woven with purpose, kindness, and vision.

To every student who wonders if they're enough — look at Catie. And know that with heart and hard work, every dream has a place to begin.

