

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 7, 2004

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STATE TREASURER HONORS LOCAL SAILOR DURING “SALUTE TO THE NAVY” DINNER

(Norfolk, Va.) – Connecticut State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier recently met with local sailor BMSN Sharri Mendez of New Haven during the annual conference of the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) and College Savings Plan Network in Norfolk, VA. Seaman Mendez is currently serving at the Naval Station Norfolk.

“Salute to the Navy” was the theme of the evening’s dinner, which was held on Admiral’s Row at the Naval Station Norfolk, the world’s largest naval installation. During dinner many of the nation’s State Treasurers met with the base’s commanding officers and seamen from their individual states. NAST worked with the Navy League of the United States in coordinating this special event.

Nappier said she was extremely proud to meet and talk with Mendez, noting that “she demonstrated a strong commitment to serving her country” and articulated a “tremendous determination to improve her future and contribute to her community and country.”

“She misses her hometown, but is committed to sticking it out. Her determination to stay the course is heartfelt and gives a real perspective on discipline and acts of courage and patriotism that was so predominant among the young people I met at the Naval base. Like so many of our young people, Mendez, who joined the Navy three years ago at the age of 17, did so because she felt the Navy would give her the opportunity to grow professionally and become a contributing member of society,” Nappier said.

“She speaks with conviction about taking advantage of this opportunity to continue to climb to higher ranks, and she displays with pride her three stripes representing her accomplishments so far,” Nappier said. Nappier said that Mendez told her that when she is not on duty, she works part-time in Norfolk at a fast food restaurant. Treasurer Nappier presented her with a memento from her home state, a pictorial essay highlighting scenes of the Constitution State.

Also during the visit, Treasurer Nappier had the opportunity to dine with other service personnel, including an individual who, at the age of 19, was the first person to “drive” the USS Ronald Reagan.

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About NAST: The National Association of State Treasurers encourages the highest ethical standards, promotes education and the exchange of ideas, builds professional relationships, develops standards of excellence and influences public policy for the benefit of the citizens of the states. Treasurer Nappier is a member of the organization’s Executive Committee, serving as Treasurer.

Photo Caption: *Connecticut State Treasurer Denise Nappier (right) and BMSN Sharri Mendez (left) during a reception at the National Association of State Treasurer’s annual conference. The evening was dedicated to America’s servicemen in appreciation for their patriotic work on behalf of our country.*