VFW chooses teacher of the year

While presenting Science fair awards Jan. 19 to middle school students at St. Philip Neri School, Linthicum, Fran Meeks unsuspectingly received an award of her own – teacher of the year.

The eighth grade science and homeroom teacher with 33 years of service received a plaque and $250 from VFW Post #304, Annapolis. On hand with the surprise was commander Kenneth R. Smith and quartermaster Richard W. Walker, parishioner of St. Mary, Annapolis.

“Fran is an extraordinary Catholic educator who inspires students’ love of learning science,” said Sheri Wright, assistant principal. “Her commitment to the ministry of Catholic education and to the students is evident in all she does. Fran’s concern for each individual is one reason she is well-liked by her students, their parents and by her colleagues. We are blessed by her presence here at St. Philip Neri School.”

Mrs. Meeks won in the Anne Arundel County VFW district. Her name also will be submitted to the VFW for inclusion in their state-wide search for Teacher of the Year. The VFW recognizes unsung heroes such as teachers, fire fighters, and police officers who receive little recognition said Mr. Walker.

“In today’s world being a teacher is as dangerous as being a policeman,” he said. “They don’t get the respect we had when we were coming along.”