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## Triangle, VA, resident is semifinalist in the world's largest speech contest

Jacoby Ethridge rose above a pool of 30,000 Toastmasters participants

ARLINGTON, VA, Aug. 2, 2017 – Jacoby Ethridge, of Triangle, Virginia, bettered more than 300 local contestants to win the [District 27](#) competition of the Toastmasters International Speech Contest. Ethridge advances to the semifinal rounds of the contest, vying for one of 10 spots in the [World Championship of Public Speaking®](#) to be held at the Toastmasters International Convention on Friday, Aug. 25, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Ethridge, a member of Navy Audit Service Toastmasters Club, in the District of Columbia, surpassed fierce competition to win over the judges with his speech, *Waiting for Forgiveness*. The speech touched on the themes of forgiveness and family relationships. When it comes to connecting with an audience, he said, "You have to be authentic. When you tell a personal story, people relate to it."

Ethridge will compete with 101 other winners from districts around the world. The contestants advanced to the 2017 semifinal round after a six-month process of elimination through club, area, division and district speech competitions. Their five- to seven-minute speeches were judged on content, organization, gestures and style.

"Getting feedback from my peers in preparation for a Toastmasters speech contest like this is stretching me in improving my public speaking skills," says Etheridge. "I am really excited about going to Vancouver to compete with the best in the world." Etheridge is an auditor for the Naval Audit Service in the District of Columbia. He joined Toastmasters to help him with aspects of his job, such as communicating with senior leadership in the U.S. Navy.

The Toastmasters International Speech Contest began in 1938 and is the world's largest speech contest, involving 30,000 participants from 142 countries. It culminates with the popular World Championship of Public Speaking held annually at the organization's [International Convention](#).

To interview Ethridge or learn more about the contest, contact Jay Krasnow at [Jay.D.Krasnow@d27tm.org](mailto:Jay.D.Krasnow@d27tm.org) or 301-512-0665. Follow [@Toastmasters](#) International on Twitter to track Ethridge's progress.

### About District 27

District 27 is one of 102 districts and is composed of more than 27 corporate and community clubs in Region 7. To learn more about District 27, please visit: [www.d27tm.org](http://www.d27tm.org)



### **About Toastmasters International**

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, the organization's membership exceeds 345,000 in more than 15,900 clubs in 142 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). Follow [@Toastmasters](https://twitter.com/Toastmasters) on Twitter.

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