

George Wallace Has Won a Medal

Washington

Alabama Governor George Wallace, who 12 years ago stood in the school house door to block the entry of black children, will be honored by a Roman Catholic preparatory school here next month for his "contribution to education."

St. John's College High School, operated by the Christian Brothers religious order, will present its annual President's Medal to the governor May 9.

Word of the school's decision has infuriated black Catholics here, and other church leaders have joined in efforts to persuade the school to withdraw the award.

Their efforts here triggered by Wallace's activities of a decade ago, which

made him anathema to civil rights leaders. The award last year was presented to Mrs. Pat Nixon.

A school official spoke of the expansion of education facilities in Alabama during Wallace's administration.

However, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Office of Education, Alabama currently ranks last among the 50 states in the amount of money spent per child on education. It ranked 48th when Governor Wallace took office.

Colonel Ray Montgomery, who heads the board of directors for the archdiocesan black secretariat, called the selection of Wallace "a profound shock as well as an insult to the population of this city."

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