



The Congressional Award
Public Law 96-114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Congress to join community and civic leaders in honoring 283 recipients of the Congressional Award Gold Medal in Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. (June 19, 2014) – Members of Congress will join community and corporate leaders in honoring the 283 recipients of the Congressional Award Gold Medal in Washington, D.C., on June 19, 2014. This annual event highlights Congress’ highest honor for youth and will recognize individuals that have dedicated hundreds of hours of service in their communities.

In addition to the numerous youth awardees from across the country being honored this year, **Mr. Kevin Liles will be recognized with the special *Horizon Award*** for his many charitable and philanthropic contributions. The Horizon Award is presented annually by Congress to an individual from the private sector who has worked to expand opportunities for all Americans through their own personal contributions, and who have set exceptional examples for young people through their successes in life. These recipients have truly forged ahead, establishing noble horizons to which our youth can aspire. Previous recipients of this recognition include Wynton Marsalis, Charles Mann, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bob Lanier, Drew Brees, Patrick Ewing and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson.

At the center of this event are the 283 medalists that took the challenge and dedicated hundreds of hours to Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Expedition/Exploration. Youth are not given this honor, but earn it based on the guidelines in Public Law 96-114, The Congressional Award Act. This year’s participants are from a variety of backgrounds and represent almost all fifty states. The Gold Medal Ceremony on June 19 honoring the 2014 Gold Medalists will be hosted by emcees **Nancy Cordes** of *CBS News* and **Chip Reid**, also of *CBS News*, with a keynote speech by the **Peace Corps’ Kate Raftery**. Entertainer **Nick Cannon** will also be on hand as a Congressional Award Board Member and Philanthropist to help celebrate these amazing young people.

Throughout the year, Congressional Award Medalists are honored at local ceremonies and medal presentations by Members of Congress at the district and state levels. Since its inception in 1979, the Congressional Award has recognized thousands of young Americans committed to serving their country and improving themselves, representing over 3.5 million hours of public service and 35,000 students – all of whom are actively working toward their Gold Medal.

The Congressional Award, a public-private partnership, established by Congress in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, is a non-competitive program open to young people ages 14-23, regardless of mental or physical challenges, or socioeconomic status. The Congressional Award Foundation teaches participants to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character, and foster community service, personal development and citizenship.

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