



The Congressional Award

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U.S. Representative Patrick E. Murphy recognizes 83 recipients of the Congressional Award in Florida's 18th Congressional District

Palm Beach Gardens, FL (March 8, 2015) – Congressman Patrick E. Murphy of Florida's 18th Congressional District awarded 83 deserving young people from northern Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties with the Congressional Award, Congress' highest honor for youth.

The annual ceremony held at the Eissey Campus Theatre of Palm Beach State College welcomed over 400 guests to celebrate the achievements of Congressional Award Medalists throughout the Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast.

Receiving Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals, the participants dedicated thousands of hours to the areas of Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Exploration.

This ceremony was unique as Florida's 18th Congressional District produced 83 Congressional Award Medalists this year - more than any other district in the nation.



Photo Courtesy of the Office of Rep. Murphy

Congressman Murphy reinforced the impressive feats of the participants by stating, *“As the youngest Member of Congress, I believe that civic engagement by young leaders is an integral part of communities and government. The Congressional Award's outlined goals help foster character building, community service, personal development, citizenship and ultimately, engaged young leaders in our community.”*

In addition to the ceremony's special guest of honor, other community leaders showed their support by participating in the program. Florida Power and Light Company generously sponsored the event and even had a representative give remarks on their behalf. Jon Shainman of WPTV (NBC affiliate) served as the master of ceremonies and Jack Lighton, President and CEO of Loggerhead Marinelife Center, provided the keynote address.

Twenty-two high schools and colleges were represented and many school administrators were also able to attend.

The Congressional Award Foundation is a public-private partnership created by Congress in 1979 to promote and recognize initiative, service, and achievement in America's youth. The program is open to all young people ages 14-23, regardless of ability or circumstance. The Congressional Award Foundation teaches participants to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development, and citizenship.

To learn more about the Congressional Award, visit our website at www.congressionalaward.org.