



Public Law 96-114, The Congressional Award Act

Congressional Award

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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK MURPHY RECOGNIZES 84 RECIPIENTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD IN FLORIDA'S 18TH DISTRICT

Palm Beach Gardens, FL (April 3, 2016) – Congressman Patrick E. Murphy of Florida's 18th Congressional District awarded 84 deserving young people from Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties with the Congressional Award, Congress' highest honor for youth.



Rep. Murphy with the 2016 Congressional Award Medalists

The annual ceremony was held midday at the Eissey Campus Theatre of Palm Beach State College. The event 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 set and accomplished goals in the areas of Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Exploration. Collectively, the group devoted over **25,000 hours of service** to their community.

For the third consecutive year, Florida's 18th Congressional District has produced more Congressional Award Medalists than any other district (of 435) in the nation.

Congressman Murphy delivered words of encouragement and praise to the medalists. *"I've been honored to present this award several times. It's remarkable each time. It's not just the finish line we're recognizing today. It's the goals, the choices you made several months or even years ago. Thank you for giving us hope, for giving us encouragement that the nation is in good hands."*

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 served as the event sponsor. **Florida Blue** and **JM Family Enterprises** also made contributions to the Foundation. **Liz Quirantes** of CBS12 lent her talent as the mistress of ceremonies, **President Ava Parker** of Palm Beach State College provided welcoming remarks, and **Dr. Sam Young** of Max Planck Florida Institute of Neuroscience provided the keynote address.

2016 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD MEDALISTS | FLORIDA'S 18TH DISTRICT

BRONZE MEDALISTS

Ashley Banker	Christian Haire	Maura Null
Katherine Bernardin	Ellie Hogan	Nicholas Riceputo
Christine Bourgoin	Andrew Holden	Lucas Seger
Kevin Byrne	Nathan Holden	Sophie Smith
Emily Craven	Rockwell Howley	Ben Smithy
Mason Cronin	Tammy Hutchison	Taylor Stevens
Matthew Dailey	Corrigan Kirvin	Lindsey Suncine
Andrew DeFerrari	Henry Lyons	Lilly Uvanile
Tasha Desiderio	Dillon McCormick	Julia Volpi
Nicholas Drake	Jack McGinley	Lauren Volpi
Jamie Dubauskas	Abigale Mendelsohn	Parker Westover
Mark Ellis	Conor Meyburg	

SILVER MEDALISTS

Jacqueline Bruen	Aalisha Jaisinghani	Cameron Pirozzi
Brian Butts	Zachary Ladd	Emma Powers
Benjamin Diaz	Elizabeth Mullen	Christiana Ricci
James Dowling	Hannah Oenbrink	Shelby Russo
Matthew Ewoldt	Kara Percival	Chloe Thompson
Jordan Feldman	Olivia Perez	Sabrina Uvanile
Nicole Ferruggia	Sofia Perez	Alex Weinstein
Reece Haire	Delanie Pettyjohn	Alexander Wood
Caitlin Hiscock	Diana Pinkham	

GOLD MEDALISTS

Evan Albury	Samantha Keating	Thomas Pinkham
Gabriel Coughlin	Cristina Kodadek	Mary Powers
Richard Coughlin	Morgan McDonald	Koushal Rao
Gabriel Del Campo	Thomas Meiser	Hunter Russo
Laura Drake	Regina Murphy	Joseph Russo
Drew Dubauskas	Noah Pack	Tyler Wilkinson
Robert Ferruggia	Shikha Patel	Jillian Wrieden
Madeline Horowitz	Austin Paxson	

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The Congressional Award is the U.S. Congress' only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a young person through the Senate and House. Established as a public-private partnership by Congress in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program is noncompetitive and open to young people ages 14-23, regardless of mental or physical challenges, or socioeconomic status. The Congressional Award enables participants to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character, and foster community service, personal development, and citizenship.