



Public Law 96-114, The Congressional Award Act

# Congressional Award

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## CONGRESSIONAL AWARD MEDALISTS RECOGNIZED BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE GREGG HARPER AT MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE CEREMONY



*Congressman Gregg Harper & Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Linda Mitchell with Bronze Medalist Kwadasha Renshaw.*

**Jackson, MS (April 17, 2016)** – On Sunday afternoon, Congressman Gregg Harper of Mississippi’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District presented 54 youth with the Congressional Award at a ceremony held at the Old State Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi.

The ceremony recognized high school and college students across the Magnolia State that had earned Congress’ highest honor within the past year. The majority of the participants completed their activities through a partnership with **Mississippi State University’s Extension Service** and **Mississippi 4-H**.

The partnership with MSU and 4-H has remained a fixture of youth development not only in the Gulf States, but nationwide. This calendar year Mississippi’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District (Rep. Trent Kelly) ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in number of Congressional Award medalists among the 435 congressional districts.

When providing congratulatory remarks, **Congressman Harper** spoke with pride saying, “It brings us great encouragement that we have a group like this that will be our state’s future leaders.” Special guest **Harry Dendy**, Chairman of the 4-H Club Foundation of Mississippi, echoed the Congressman’s sentiment. “Our youth are the most important resources that our nation has.”

Other supporters of the Congressional Award that participated in the event included **Fox 40 News anchor Joy Redmond** (emcee); **Dr. Gregory Bohach**, MSU’s Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine; and **Dr. Linda Mitchell**, Vice Chairwoman of the Congressional Award Foundation’s Board of Directors. **Wingfield High School JROTC** provided the presentation of colors and many high school and collegiate school administrators made long drives to support their students’ great achievement.

This recognition event was made possible by the support and contributions of **Mississippi State University**, the **4-H Club Foundation of Mississippi**, and **Mississippi Power**.

## 2016 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD MEDALISTS | MISSISSIPPI

### BRONZE MEDALISTS

Tyler Bogan of Shannon  
Austin Burdine of Houston  
Jackson Christ of New Albany  
Marcelia Clay of Tupelo  
Milton Clay of Tupelo  
Lindsay Fleming of Greenwood  
Shelby Grant of New Albany  
Anaya Johnson of Shannon  
Olivia Lanum of Brandon  
Laken Lyons of Plantersville

Morgan Lyons of Plantersville  
Ty'Yonna McCalphia of Newton  
Hayley Meriweather of Carrollton  
Teiryne Miller of Shannon  
Unarius Miller of Shannon  
Bryson Reddick of Shannon  
Kwadasha Renshaw of Tupelo  
Justin Seibel of Lawrence  
T'ajahlon White of Shannon  
Sophia Williams of Shannon

### SILVER MEDALISTS

Mamie Albritton of Lumberton  
Jamie Aron of Flowood  
Mallory Byrd of Columbus  
Kristin Clark of Saltillo  
Harry Cooley of Shannon  
Taylor Noelle Fields of Aberdeen  
Jessica Gates of Shannon  
Caleb Hall of Pontotoc  
Harrison Lanum of Brandon  
Anthony Laudadio of Walnut

Nicholas Laudadio of Walnut  
Bailey Malvano-Hall of Tupelo  
Sara Martin of Pontotoc  
Lane Mitchell of New Albany  
Kacilyn Pegues of Shannon  
Margaret Rennie of Calhoun City  
Mikayla Shelton of Bruce  
Maurissa Shumpert of Tupelo  
C.J. Weddle of Vardaman

### GOLD MEDALISTS

Benjamin Baker of Banner  
Hillary Burgess of Corinth  
Molly Chamblee of Pontotoc  
Karynton Nicole Duke of Bruce  
Dee-Ivy Franklin of Cleveland  
Rachel Gaines of Coldwater  
John "JJ" Hitt Jr. of Calhoun City

David Huff of Brandon  
Marisa Laudadio of Walnut  
Katherine Penney of Saltillo  
Anne-Marie Prochaska of Senatobia  
Katherine Alesa Taylor of Guntown  
Jessica Wilson of Pearl  
Rachel Wilson of Pearl

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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.