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Senate Majority Leader Appoints Laura O'Connor to National Board of Directors

Washington, DC (November 8, 2017) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has appointed Laura O'Connor of Eagle Mountain, Utah to The Congressional Award Foundation's National Board of Directors. Mrs. O'Connor will serve as one of the five civilian posts under the Senate Majority Leader.

"This appointment reflects the confidence many have in Laura, and the respect she has earned from decades of leadership and commitment to youth," said Paxton K. Baker, Chairman of The Congressional Award National Board of Directors. "As The Congressional Award sharpens our focus on improving opportunities for America's youth, we welcome Laura's expertise and creativity to increase our impact."

Mrs. O'Connor has been employed with the Alpine School District for the last 14 years as the Junior High Registrar in the Counseling office and serves on the Registrar Guiding Coalition.

Laura is currently the Scholarship Coordinator on the HOBY Utah Executive Board and has served in a variety of volunteer roles including the Utah Winter Guard Circuit's Executive Board as the Assistant Contest Director. Mrs. O'Connor has worked with youth of all ages for most of her life, serving as a Girl Scout Leader, 4-H Advisor/Leader, PTA member, and School Site Committee member.

"I am honored and excited to serve alongside each of the board members. I am passionate about this program having seen it first hand and how it impacts not only the youth individually that participate in it, but how their service changes the communities in which they live," said Laura upon accepting her appointment to the board of directors.

The Congressional Award has become a family tradition for the O'Connors. Laura earned the Silver Medal in 1986 and her husband, Michael (1985 Gold Medalist), and three children; Ashleigh (2011 Gold Medalist), McKenna (2016 Gold Medalist), and Michael (2016 Silver Medalist) have all participated.

Alongside her husband, Laura was named the recipient of The Congressional Award's *Innovation Award* in 2016 for her exemplary work as a youth advisor.

THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD FOUNDATION

The Congressional Award is U.S. Congress' only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a young person through the Senate and House. Established by Congress as a public-private partnership in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program encourages and recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in youth ages 14-23. Learn more about the program at www.congressionalaward.org.

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