



Public Law 96-114

The Congressional Award

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Former Iowa Senator receives Leadership Award at Senate HELP Committee Dinner



Former Senator John Culver is joined by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and Chairman of the Congressional Award Foundation Board Paxton Baker.

long history and involvement with youth programs was also honored this year by Harvard's Institute of Politics and Phillips Brooks House Association through creation of the "John C. Culver Award for Service and Politics."

Senator Culver's son, Iowa Governor Chet Culver, was on hand to give words of praise for his father's devotion to our nation's youth.

"I feel we all owe a debt of gratitude to the inspiration he has provided and continues to provide," Governor Chet Culver said. "I want to say, on behalf of all the Iowans and people around the nation you have touched with your lifetime of service to this country, 'thank you.'"

Formerly hosted by the late Senator Ted Kennedy, Senator Culver's longtime friend and former colleague, this year's annual dinner was co-chaired by HELP Committee **Chairman Tom Harkin, Ranking Member Mike Enzi and members Johnny Isakson and Al Franken. In addition to Governor Culver, special guests included Senator Chuck Grassley and Congressman Bruce Braley.** The event provided an opportunity for Republicans and Democrats alike to come together to advocate the importance of civic engagement and physical health and fitness for youth —two main components of the Congressional Award program. As childhood obesity continues to be an ongoing focus of the Senate HELP Committee, the program encourages participants to engage in activities that can prevent this epidemic from spreading to future generations.

Since its inception in 1979, the Congressional Award has recognized thousands of young Americans committed to serving their country and improving themselves, representing over 4 million hours of public service and 2 million hours of physical fitness activities. For more information, contact Erica Heyse at the Congressional Award National Office.

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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. The only other medal awarded by the United States Congress is the Medal of Honor.