



Public Law 96-114, The Congressional Award Act

# Congressional Award

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## Congress to join community and civic leaders in honoring 325 youth with the Congressional Award Gold Medal in Washington, D.C.

**Washington, D.C. (June 9, 2016)** – Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives will join community and corporate leaders on June 16<sup>th</sup> to honor the **325 recipients** of the Congressional Award Gold Medal – Congress’ highest award for youth. This annual event recognizes young people that have dedicated hundreds of hours of service to their communities.

Two award ceremonies will be hosted by emcees **Ailsa Chang of NPR** and **Devin Dwyer of ABC News** in the Cannon Caucus Room on Capitol Hill. **Radio Host Tommy McFly of 94.7 Fresh FM** will serve as the emcee for the Youth Wellness Recognition Dinner at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

In addition to the numerous youth awardees from across the country being honored this year, **National Baseball Hall of Famer Mr. Cal Ripken, Jr. and actress/philanthropist America Ferrera will be recognized with the special Horizon Award.** This award is presented to individuals from the private sector who have contributed to expanding opportunities for all Americans through their own personal contributions. Previous recipients of this recognition include Wynton Marsalis, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Drew Brees, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, and Emmitt Smith.

The Congressional Award will also recognize **Michael and Laura O’Connor of Eagle Mountain, Utah with the Inspiration Award** for their continued work and devotion on behalf of America’s youth. The Advisor is imperative to the success of young people and Mike and Laura have proven themselves by shepherding over 500 young people through the program.

The special awards will be presented at the Youth Wellness Recognition Dinner on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center with the 2016 Gold Medalists and their families in attendance.

Throughout the year, Congressional Award recipients are honored with Bronze and Silver Medals at local medal presentations by Members of Congress at the district and state levels. The Gold Medal Ceremony is hosted each June at the U.S. Capitol. Since its inception in 1979, the Congressional Award has recognized thousands of young Americans committed to serving their country and improving themselves, representing over 7.5 million hours of public service. Currently over 48,000 students from all 50 states are actively working toward earning a Congressional Award.

*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 teaches participants to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development, and citizenship.*

## **Alabama**

Sean Villeneuve, Jr. of Tuscaloosa

## **Arizona**

Adriana Tapia of Mesa

Jacob Massie of Mesa

## **Army Post Office**

Gabriel Cutler

## **California**

Cydney Kaslar of Santa Rosa

Catherine Liang of Santa Rosa

Conor Hassett of Elk Grove

Gianna Chien of Stockton

Dominic Solari of Stockton

Griffin Ansel of Orinda

Claire Dashe of San Francisco

Meghan Leong of Fremont

Ariane Tsai of Cupertino

William Chen Saratoga

Terence Lee of Los Altos

Benjamin Dotson of Visalia

Madison DeBruin of Atascadero

Sienna Santer of Arroyo Grande

Brandon Chen of Newbury Park

Mark Hanson of Oxnard

George McGuigan of Thousand Oaks

John Monday of Thousand Oaks

Kanhai Shah of Thousand Oaks

Ken Iwane of Sound Pasadena

Carl Xue of San Gabriel

William Gutzman of Pasadena

Erica Kang of La Canada

SungMin Shin of Glendale

Michael Simic of Burbank

Bryan Denq of Chatsworth

Claire Yeabin Lee of Rancho Cucamonga

Devin Kanzler of Los Angeles

Elizabeth Sams of Moorpark

Brandon Winner of Manhattan Beach

Angela Soyeon Chon of Los Angeles

Lynn Kim of Los Angeles

Jaewoo Han of Fullerton

Steve Han of Fullerton

Brandon Ho of Walnut

Sora Jeong of Fullerton

Timothy Joo of Fullerton

Kayla Kang of Fullerton

Charlotte Kim of Diamond Bar

Jay Kim of Fullerton

Vivian Kim of Diamond Bar

Joanne Lee of Fullerton

Junsu Lee of Fullerton

Robert Lee of Fullerton

Sarah Lee of Fullerton

Bonnie Lei of Walnut

Emily Mun of Fullerton

Esther Park of Fullerton

Joo Min Yeo of Fullerton

Jae-Hee Yoo of Yorba Linda

Sang Shane Yun of Fullerton

So Hee Ki of Irvine

Jeong Inn Lee of Irvine

Hannah Park of Irvine

Karan Shahof Irvine

Joseph Bastien of Cypress

Sarah Chen of Ladera Ranch

Kayla Jahangiri of San Juan Capistrano

Chris Jiang of Ladera Ranch

Alexandra Lee of San Juan Capistrano

Samuel Sugarman of Encinitas

Chelsea Barrows of San Diego

Karl Garrett of San Diego

Thomas Meiser of San Diego

## **Colorado**

Christina Bear of Golden

Lauren Lang of Boulder

Eric Zhang of Highlands Ranch

## **Connecticut**

Meredith Karle of Ridgefield

Duncan Khosla of Greenwich

Allegra Molkenhain of Darien

Charlotte Wechsler of Greenwich

## Florida

Shaleen Thakur of Gainesville  
Sonal Thakur of Gainesville  
Shyla Blackmon of Atlantic Beach  
Jelisa Jackson of Atlantic Beach  
Aliya Centner of Lake Mary  
Safia Centner of Lake Mary  
Peter Lee of Vero Beach  
Parker Coye of Orlando  
Evan Albury of Palm City  
Gabriel Coughlin of Palm Beach Gardens  
Richard Coughlin of Palm Beach Gardens  
Laura Drake of Tequesta  
Drew Dubauskas of Jupiter  
Robert Ferruggia of North Palm Beach  
Madeline Horowitz of Palm Beach Gardens  
Samantha Keating of Jupiter  
Cristina Kodadek of Jupiter  
Morgan McDonald of Stuart  
Regina Murphy of Port St. Lucie  
Noah Pack of Stuart  
Shikha Patel of Port St. Lucie  
Austin Paxson of Palm Beach Gardens  
Thomas Pinkham of Tequesta  
Mary Powers of Stuart  
Koushal Rao of Port St. Lucie  
Hunter Russo of Jupiter  
Joseph Russo of Jupiter  
Tyler Wilkinson of Tequesta  
Jillian Wrieden of Jupiter  
Varun Singh of Seffner  
Gabriel Del Campo of Royal Palm Beach  
Joshua Puchferran of Boca Raton  
Jade Gibson of Naples  
Dimitri Godur of Miami

## Georgia

Kara McDonough of Savannah  
Julia Abelsky of Sandy Springs  
Elizabeth Harvey of Dunwoody  
Katie Rose Dionne of Gainesville  
Noah Smith of Watkinsville  
Billy McGahan of Atlanta  
Kathleen Stueve of Atlanta

## Hawaii

Elyssa Turnbull of Waialua

## Idaho

Cheyenne Quilter of Boise  
Eric Summers of Meridian  
Kelly Turney of White Bird  
Sarah Close of Rigby

## Illinois

Christian Cooper of Chicago  
Sarah Stephen of Chicago  
Maddy Peticolas of Godfrey

## Indiana

Robert James Huber of West Harrison  
Caroline Luehrmann of Hope

## Kansas

Carissa McAfee of Valley Falls  
Tiffany Dattel of Leawood  
Jared Gillen of Stilwell  
Nikhil Kuppuswamy of Overland Park  
Megan Nalamachu of Overland Park  
Ryan Olson of Leawood  
Melissa Rosenthal of Leawood  
Gavin Zhu of Overland Park

## Kentucky

Audrey Moore of Somerset  
Gabrielle Moore of Somerset  
Noah Gillis of Louisville  
Amanda Otten of Louisville  
Ben Otten of Louisville

## Maryland

Garima Dewan of Boyds  
Mahima Dewan of Boyds

## Massachusetts

Lynda Loucif of Northborough  
Rachel Steadman of Malborough  
Lillian Bermel of Chestnut Hill  
Sophia Duplin of Melrose  
Catherine Upton of Weston  
Elizabeth Monger of Scituate  
Megan Selby of Stoughton  
Samuel Chestna of Middleborough  
Justin Conner of Kingston

### **Minnesota**

Emily Staunton of Mound  
Christian Kunau of Minneapolis  
David Kunau of Minneapolis

### **Mississippi**

Benjamin Baker of Banner  
Hillary Burgess of Corinth  
Molly Chamblee of Pontotoc  
Karynton Nicole Duke of Bruce  
Dee-Ivy Franklin of Pittsboro  
John "JJ" Hitt of Calhoun City  
Marisa Laudadio of Walnut  
Katherine Penney of Saltillo  
Katherine Alesa Taylor of Guntown  
David Huff of Brandon

### **Missouri**

Meghana Bharadwaj of Wildwood  
Nicholas Kahan of Kirkwood  
Olivia Long of St. Louis  
Kaitlynn Allen of Union  
Joel Ian Moss of Lake Ozark  
Edayla Talley of Union  
Kristin Walther of Washington  
Emily Gustafson of Loch Lloyd  
Amelia Smith of Kansas City  
Madison Grooms of Saint Joseph

### **Montana**

Emily Berg of Great Falls

### **Nebraska**

Marian Sanchez Romo of Bellevue  
Andrew Eisert of Papillion  
Megan Feldmann of Papillion  
Katrina Nesbit of Bellevue

### **New Hampshire**

Stephen Baird of Hancock

### **New Jersey**

Andrew Geldreich Berlin  
Philip Balas of Millville  
Alexander Brescia of Millville  
Alexander Bruman of Millville  
Paige Crain of Millville  
Elizabeth Emberger of Millville

Amaya Liles of Millville  
Khushbu Patel of Cape May Court House  
Shannon Renshaw of Millville  
Andrew Sooy of Millville  
Alexis Vanaman of Millville  
Olivia Weldon of Millville  
Jennifer Farmer of Moorestown  
Madeline Farmer of Moorestown  
Neharika Pitta of Toms River  
Isaiah Udotong of Cinnaminson  
Christian Boujaoude of Eastontown  
Vishvajit Mohan Holmdel  
Harsha Pavuluri Robbinsville  
Ruchi Raval Colts Neck  
Abhay Sampat of Holmdel  
Samay Sampat of Holmdel  
Viraj Sampat of Holmdel  
Jessica Janneck of Emerson  
Nishi Shah of Edison  
Trevor Somers of Monmouth Beach  
Richard Stelfox Monmouth Beach  
Abigail Campbell of Milford  
Mary Catherine Greeley of Mountainside  
Marissa Grillo of Secaucus  
Laura Mondadori of Secaucus  
Brian Handen of Mendham  
Winona Guo of Princeton

### **New York**

Marc Klinger of Dix Hills  
James Borovilas of Staten Island  
Sarah Primiano of Staten Island  
Jason Pymonto of Staten Island  
Thomas Walsh of Staten Island  
Madeline Fouts of Rye  
Cameron Martel of Suffern  
Navkiran Aujla of Wappingers Falls  
Stephanie Shum of Wappingers Falls  
Edward Moran of Windham  
Isaac Smith of Ballston Lake

### **North Carolina**

William Casstevens of Winston-Salem  
Apolinaire Brown of Charlotte  
Chloe Harty of Charlotte  
Kaitryana Leinbach of Charlotte  
Sam Maxwell of Matthews  
Caroline Schauder of Huntersville

Quinn Schneider of Cornelius  
Julianna Viveiros of Mooresville  
Savannah Bell of Forest City  
William Ruff of Forest City

### **Ohio**

Ishan Rola of Springboro  
Hannah Chappell-Dick of Bluffton  
Micah Karr of Beaver creek  
Morgan Karr of Beaver creek  
Rachana Raghupathy of Dayton  
Elise Radzialowski of Richfield  
Mara Radzialowski of Richfield  
Weston Clark of Ravenna  
Nick Schwartz of London

### **Oklahoma**

Gabriela Rueda of Oklahoma City

### **Pennsylvania**

Puspa Chamlagai of Philadelphia  
Ganesh Gurung of Philadelphia  
Reena Gurung of Philadelphia  
Shiva Gurung of Philadelphia  
Ashley Hoyle of Wallingford  
Ah Mu Htoo of Philadelphia  
Mura Htoo of Philadelphia  
Dhan Karki of Philadelphia  
Mu Mu of Philadelphia  
Cing San Nuam of Philadelphia  
Thayku Paw of Philadelphia  
Krishna Powdye of Philadelphia  
Dhan Tamang of Philadelphia  
Bawitha Tling of Philadelphia  
Dhaka Kharel of Philadelphia  
Katherine Hung of Bryn Mawr  
Rachael Eddowes of Holland  
Katherine Mars of Doylestown  
Kyla Martin of Paxinos  
Brian Agnew of Huntingdon Valley  
Cameron Hayes of Rydal  
Ye Eun Kim of Jenkintown  
Binod Poudel of Philadelphia  
Madeline Reich of Elkins Park  
Jared Stevenson of Glenside  
Briana Yarnoff of Meadowbrooke  
Swata Alagar of Pittsburgh

Cindy Hsieh of Bethel Park  
Ava Lesko of Greensburg

### **Tennessee**

Marsha Girish of Johnson City

### **Texas**

Heather Smith of Houston  
Briana Minter of Palestine  
Lucy Tomforde of Houston  
Claire Cromley of The Woodlands  
Frank Masuelli of The Woodlands  
Colby Janecka of Woodway  
William Ford of College Station  
Hugo Guerra of San Antonio  
John Craig of San Antonio  
Gabriela Font of San Antonio  
Sohan Gadkari of Pearland  
Alisha Kashyap of Manvel  
Christian Barham of Southlake  
Joseph Beatty of Grapevine  
Emily Hall of Grapevine  
Andrew Zelewski of Southlake  
Akshay Malhotra of Lewisville  
Aleskar Villarreal of Laredo  
Anna Nemec of Taylor  
Travis Purser of Round Rock  
Ahmet Selimoglu of Garland

### **Vermont**

Patrick Sharpe of South Royalton

### **Virginia**

Matthew Dunmire of Woodford  
Lizzy Mothershead of Williamsburg  
Robert Bishop of Virginia Beach  
James Reed Huston of Virginia Beach  
Rhianna Kalynn Shaheen of Virginia Beach  
Kelsey Barklund of Culpeper  
Kameron Mize of Jeffersonton  
Hunter Grace Jernigan of Alexandria  
Emma Westerhof-Schultz of Arlington  
Divya Wodon of McLean  
Naina Wodon of McLean  
Luke Beasey of Bristol  
Snigdha Madiraju of Ashburn  
Samantha Lane of Dunn Loring

### **Washington**

Alyssa La Fleur of Fruitland  
Michael Park of Medina  
Bryan Shin of Mukilteo  
Christian Pugh of Ephrata  
Alexandra Coleman of Port Angeles  
Gerald Johnson of Port Angeles  
Christine Chen of Bellevue  
Sophie Miller of Seattle

### **Wisconsin**

Daniel Saphiere of Waverford  
Olivia Coon of Viroqua  
Noah Schuetz of Hazel Green

### **Wyoming**

Sarah Burton of Saratoga  
Francesca Hinkle of Cheyenne  
Ashlynn Johnson of Encampment  
Amelia Rosmarin of Laramie  
Abigail Shockley of Jackson Hole  
Cristian Soles of Saratoga

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