Matthew Kemp Recognized for Outstanding Commitment to Public Service

ROCHESTER, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today presented the Congressional Bronze Medal Award to Fairport High School Sophomore Matthew Kemp. Matthew is receiving the award in recognition of this exceptional commitment to public service and personal development.

The Congressional Award is presented to students aged 14-23 who have set and achieved goals in the four program areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration. Since the program's inception in 1979, fewer than 10 students have received the Congressional Award Gold Medal from the Rochester area.

"Matthew is an exceptional young man and truly represents the best and brightest among our youth," said Slaughter. "I am so very proud of him and look forward to watching him grow and develop into a true leader. Young people like Matthew represent America's future and I am very encouraged by their potential."

Slaughter presented Kemp with the award in her Rochester Office on Tuesday, August 28th.

In pursuit of his Bronze Medal Award, Matthew completed 100 hours of Voluntary Public Service by volunteering at the Teen Advisory Board of the Lions Den Teen Center and on projects through the Perinton Community Center as well as the Rochester Museum and Science Center and community theatre groups. In the area of Personal Development, Matthew devoted more than 50 hours to developing his cooking skills and is now confident making several main dishes and desserts on his own. In the area of Physical Fitness, Matthew learned how to play volleyball by participating in a full season of the sport. In the process, Matthew spent more than 50 hours learning to sharpen his skills and be a member of a team.

During his Expedition, Matthew continued his appreciation for nature by spending valuable time with his family on a one-night camping trip in Taughannock Falls State Park.

Participants in the Congressional Award program earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas:

(1) Volunteer Public Service - Providing service to others and the greater community at large.

(2) Personal Development – Developing personal interests, social or employment skills.

(3) Physical Fitness - Improving quality of life through fitness activities.

(4) Expedition/Exploration - Undertaking an outdoor, wilderness or venture experience (Historical, cultural or environmental).

Matthew's older brother Jeffrey, was a previous recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal Award,

which Slaughter presented in June of 2010.

For more information on the Congressional Award Gold Medal, please visit http://www.congressionalaward.org/ .