

Slaughter Congratulates McQuaid Jesuit Student on Congressional Award

June 16, 2010

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) announced that Jeffrey Kemp, a junior at McQuaid Jesuit High School, has been awarded the Congressional Award Gold Medal for embodying the ideals of personal growth and achievement.

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, less than 10 students have received the Congressional Award Gold Medal from the Rochester area.

"I am delighted to present Jeff with the Congressional Award Gold Medal because I know he makes Rochester proud," said Slaughter. "Congress established this award to recognize initiative, achievement and service in young people and Jeff's work with Habitat for Humanity and his ability to enlist the support of his peers shows him to be a perfect recipient of this honor."

Slaughter will present Kemp with the award during a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, June 23 at 10:30 a.m.

Also in attendance will be NFL star Michael Oher whose meteoric rise to the NFL was the inspiration behind the 2010 Oscar-winning film *The Blindside*. He will receive an award for his commitment to serving America's youth. Deputy Secretary of Education Anthony Wilder Miller will deliver a keynote address.

This year 252 students from across the country will be presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

"As I started doing community service with Habitat for Humanity I really became involved in their

mission to support affordable housing for low-income families,” said Kemp, “so I decided to start the club and get other students involved.”

In addition to his work with his peers, Kemp recently lead a Hike for Habitat which raised more than \$4,200 and worked with 11 students to retrofit 2 burned down homes in Pennsylvania.

Kemp was helped along the way by his advisor, Father John Carriero, a guidance counselor at McQuaid Jesuit High School.

“McQuaid is especially proud of Jeff as student and person. He has a rich personality and is someone who is certainly taken up with helping other people,” said Carriero. “If you were a citizen you’d want to have him as your leader and if you’re an employer you’d want him working for you.”

Kemp, who lives in Fairport, is a junior at McQuaid Jesuit High School and will graduate with honors as part of the class of 2011. He is also a member of All-State Chorus and the Doug Miller Rochester Rhinos School of Excellence soccer team.

“I cannot wait to come down to the Capitol,” Kemp said. “I’ve been down to Washington before, but I can’t wait.”

About the Congressional Award Gold Medal

Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement and service in young people. Participants for a Congressional Award set goals for themselves in four program areas: Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. They then spend two years striving to reach those goals. Gold Medal recipients have completed 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of personal development and physical fitness activities, and a four-night expedition.

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