

Health (NIH) and the important research it is doing. There are few investments the Federal Government makes that regularly pay dividends to the American taxpayer. The National Institutes of Health, the lead government agency tasked with preventing and curing diseases and disorders, is one such investment. NIH conducts biomedical research at its Maryland campus and also supports biomedical research at medical centers, independent research laboratories and colleges and universities across our country. I would like to highlight one example of research that NIH is supporting to improve our constituents' overall health and well-being through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

Premature birth is a major public health priority for the United States and a major research priority for the NICHD. In 2003, one out of every eight infants was born premature—resulting in more than \$18 billion in hospital expenditures. Premature infants are at high risk for a variety of disorders, including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and vision impairment.

The primary goal of prematurity research is to find a way to prevent births from occurring before an infant is strong enough to survive outside of the womb. Because women who have one premature birth are considered to be at high risk for another premature birth, NICHD investigators have focused their attention on trying to prevent premature birth among these high-risk women. Researchers in an NICHD funded Maternal-Fetal Medicine Network set out to test the use of a specific type of progesterone called 17P that the body makes to support pregnancy. The results were remarkable—for women who have a history of premature delivery that are carrying one baby, injections of 17P reduced premature birth by one-third. The results of this research are currently being translated into real world results as obstetricians across the country are putting them into practice with their patients. This research is a clear and important step towards achieving our goal of bringing healthy babies into the world.

This is just one example of how the research funded with taxpayer dollars at the NIH is improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO 2008 NATIONAL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR MIKE
GEISEN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize the 2008 National Teacher of the Year, Mr. Mike Geisen, whom I am proud to represent in Congress. I want to take the opportunity to draw the attention of our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives and our Nation's citizens to the tremendous contributions Mike has made to his students, the State of Oregon, and the profession of teaching. This morning, I have the great privilege to join Mike at the White House where the President will acknowledge his outstanding achievement.

Mike and his wife, Jennifer, have two children, Johanna and Aspen, and together they

make their home in beautiful Crook County, Oregon. Mike is a native of Washington State and made his way to Oregon's Second Congressional District by way of a job with the United States Forest Service, which took him to Grants Pass, Oregon. Fortunately for Oregon's students, Mike decided to translate his love of nature and desire to give into a career as a science teacher. After working as a student teacher at Crook County Middle School in Prineville, Oregon, he was hired as a seventh grade science teacher and has made a tremendously positive impact there for the past 7 years. It is remarkable that someone who began teaching such a short time ago could rise so rapidly to an honor such as the National Teacher of the Year.

The Crook County School District is located in Central Oregon and includes all of Crook County and much of southeast Deschutes County, an area totaling approximately 3,000 square miles—the size of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. It is a rural district with its main offices located in Prineville, the oldest town in central Oregon. The school district itself has 3,200 students and Crook County Middle School, where Mike teaches, has 700 students.

Mike is known for his extraordinary dedication and creative ways of engaging his students. For example, he and his students turned the dead grass, weeds and peeling paint of their school's courtyard into an outdoor learning lab. This "naturescape" is an area that students maintain and use to conduct experiments. He makes use of every resource available to him to engage his students and inspire them to learn. He is known for designing fun review games, performing demonstrations, helping students get involved with hands-on labs, acting out scientific principles, and even bringing his guitar to school and singing songs about the lesson at hand, such as gravity, atoms, and "The Bacteria Blues." Mike's dedication to his students goes beyond just his science classroom curriculum; he fundraised to have a climbing wall installed at the school for the students. Mike's philosophy, in his own words: "Teaching just doesn't happen inside the classroom, it happens all over the community."

As chair of the science department at Crook County Middle School, Mike helps create assessments and design curriculum, and has earned the high respect of his colleagues. Mike's passion for teaching and engaging lessons makes learning fun for students and has led to increased test scores. Prior to Mike becoming science department chair, the school had reached a plateau, with 55 percent of students meeting the State's science benchmark. During his first 2 years as department chair, scores jumped from an average of 55 percent to 72 percent, meeting the State science benchmark. Mike's formula for success is putting a bit of himself, a bit of Prineville, and a good dose of humor and creativity into each activity, project, and assignment.

The National Teacher of the Year must serve as an inspiration to students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn, have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues, play an active and positive role in the community as well as in the school, and be poised, articulate, and possess the energy to withstand a taxing schedule. Recipients of this rare honor are knowledgeable and skilled. Above all, they are exceptionally dedicated.

Mike Geisen certainly exceeds each of these characteristics.

The National Teacher of the Year award is obviously a tremendous honor, and I couldn't be more pleased that Mike has achieved this top status in our country. While he will surely be missed at Crook County Middle School during his year of national service as a spokesman for the teaching profession, Oregon's temporary loss of Mike in the classroom will be a significant gain for the United States as a whole. As the first Oregon teacher to be awarded this prestigious honor since 1973, I know that when Mike returns home to Prineville, he will bring a host of new experiences and ideas to share with his colleagues and students and will continue to excel and make learning fun for generations of Oregonians to come.

Please join me in congratulating Mike Geisen for being chosen as the 2008 National Teacher of the Year and in thanking him for his deep commitment to educating our children.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS.
BRITTANY CUPERY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ms. Brittany Cupery, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5 minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the Local Youth of the Year award, Brittany moved onto the state level competition, where she refined her essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Brittany was a highly qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. She volunteers daily at the Oak Orchard Boys & Girls Club where she is a mentor and big sister to many of the members. She also actively participates at her local volunteer fire company house.

Once again, I would like to commend Brittany Cupery for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.