

Center in Lenexa and the Boy's and Girl's Club in Manhattan, Kan.

At Lakeview Village, he assisted the elderly in daily activities and ran bingo games in Lakeview's Health Center.

The Boy's and Girl's Club provided opportunities for Benjamin to tutor elementary-age students, facilitate anti-drug and anti-alcohol programs and provide structured after-school activities.

Benjamin said he would encourage others to work for this award because it challenges participants to get out into the community outside of their comfort zone.

"I think this award helps youth build a strong, goal driven foundation that is focused on service," he said.

The youngest brother to receive the award, Christopher Connell, 19, said he has enjoyed serving others since beginning the program in 2002.

His service hours include volunteering at Lakeview Village Retirement Community, fundraising for charity causes at Shawnee Mission West High School and planting and mulching trees at Shawnee Mission Park.

For his expedition, Christopher spent six nights in the wilderness at Double H Ranch, associated with Philmont Scout Ranch.

Christopher said this honor is awarded based on a person's willingness to improve.

"Anyone can earn this award because it isn't a competition except with yourself," he said.

Nicholas said he encourages others to pursue the award because many are already doing what is needed to receive it.

"You have to do the necessary paper work and enroll in the program to make sure you get the award," he said. "The Congressional Award won't seek you out—you have to let them know you are working on it and provide the proper documentation."

[From the Kansas City Star, June 28, 2008]  
CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOES TO LEAWOOD  
TEEN-AGER

(By Alexia Lang)

After three years of hard work and determination, Sydney Ayers got her reward: a trip to Capitol Hill to receive the Congressional Award Gold Medal from Congressman Dennis Moore.

Ayers, a 17-year-old from Leawood, was chosen from among the Kansas recipients to make a speech about the experience of being in the Congressional Award program. "My goal was to improve the lives of others, specifically children and the elderly," Ayers said.

During the ceremony June 19, Moore, who presented the awards to the four Kansas recipients, said he was proud to celebrate their achievements.

"Their dedication to helping others and self-improvement is not only inspiring, but it reminds us that changing the world starts with each of us," he said.

Ayers decided she wanted to work for the award in eighth grade after hearing that a senior at her school had received it.

She consulted with Susan Harper, one of her teachers at Barstow School, and they mapped out a plan that would allow her to accomplish her goal in three years. Harper became her mentor/sponsor.

To qualify for the medal, applicants must spend two or more years completing at least 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness activities, and a four-night expedition or exploration.

Sherry Dodds Ayers, Sydney's mother, said, "Since this was such a big project, she was very careful to pick things that were realistic. There are many kids who start this program and never finish."

Ayers completed her community service hours by volunteering at a memory care center, a retirement home, a children's home, an orphanage in Mexico and for Christmas in October.

She superseded the physical activity requirements, finishing with 638 hours. She is a member of the varsity tennis and cheerleading teams as well as USTA tennis and managed the boys high school tennis team.

To satisfy the 200 hours of personal development, Ayers participated in theatrical productions in roles ranging from actor to stagehand to backstage manager.

"The personal development was to gain a better appreciation of the arts," her mother said.

Ayers' final project was a trip to Alaska with her grandfather that she planned, organized and executed by herself. They spent five days and four nights in a cabin with limited electricity preparing all their food and hiking for water.

Ayers said her trip to a Mexican orphanage was one of the most rewarding experiences.

"It was far outside of my comfort zone and my cultural zone," she said.

She added that she learned and experienced something different everywhere she went.

Sherry Ayers said she is most proud that her daughter stuck with the program and completed her goal.

"It's a lot of hard work," she said.

Ayers said she would recommend the program to others because of the return on the hard work invested.

She said, "After how hard it is and how dedicated you have to be, it's nice to see the result after all of these years."

RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA  
CHAPTER OF THE FORMOSAN  
ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AND SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S  
MEMBERSHIP INTO THE  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Minnesota chapter of the Formosan Association for Public Affairs, FAPA, which has done an exemplary job of keeping the voice of the Taiwanese people alive in my State of Minnesota. This organization has spoken for the people of Taiwan on many important issues including the all important matter of supporting Taiwan's membership into the World Health Organization, WHO.

The WHO is an important international organization that works to attain the highest possible level of health for all people. Unfortunately, the 23 million citizens of Taiwan are denied access to this organization and are unable to take part in international health forums, programs and benefits conducted by the WHO.

The large volume of international travel to Taiwan heightens the transmission of communicable diseases and makes Taiwan an ideal candidate for membership in the organization. For this reason alone, Taiwan and its people should be allowed to participate in the health services and medical protections offered by the World Health Organization.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Minnesota chapter of the FAPA for their continued

efforts to defend Taiwan. And, I urge you to join me in supporting Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization.

CICELY TYSON RECOGNIZED AT  
2008 CARIBBEAN HERITAGE SALUTE  
TO HOLLYWOOD AND THE  
ARTS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD an article entitled: "Actress Cicely Tyson to be Honored at the 2008 Caribbean Heritage Salute to Hollywood and the Arts," which appeared in the June 24th edition of the New York Carib News, our local weekly newspaper which chronicles and recognizes the achievements of people of Caribbean origin. Ms. Tyson is a legendary actress and has appeared in timeless works such as the miniseries "Roots," the daytime soap "The Guiding Light," and the popular TV show "The Women of Brewster Place."

Cicely Tyson is the daughter of immigrants who came to the United States after leaving the Caribbean island of Nevis. This legendary actress began her career in the '50s and has built up her reputation as a remarkable dramatic actress who continues to grace the screen of television and film today.

Tyson's success is another testament to the courageous spirit and deep determination of Caribbean Americans. Their contributions are innumerable and integral to American culture and were deservedly celebrated during last month's Caribbean Heritage Month activities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HELEN K.  
JONES

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Helen K. Jones, and in honor of her dedication and leadership in the field of behavioral health and substance abuse treatment in the Greater Cleveland Area.

Helen Jones was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where she earned her degree in Social Work from Cleveland State University and her master's degree in Social Service Administration from Case Western Reserve University. Her compassion and advocacy on behalf of others led her to pursue a career in the behavioral health field, where she would emerge as a leader and well-known figure in the Greater Cleveland Area. In her role as President and CEO of Recovery Resources, Inc, a non-profit organization which treats and helps people overcome mental illness and substance abuse addictions, she changed the local system of treating behavioral health problems. In 1988, she began working with Neighborhood Counseling Services until it merged with Recovery Resources, Inc. in 2000, when she was appointed Chief Operating Officer. Under her leadership and advocacy, the budget and staff of Recovery Resources, Inc. increased significantly, making it one of the largest and most