

to all of our children to succeed and be a part of a team. I also congratulate the following students, coaches and community leaders who are being recognized at the 20th Annual Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame:

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2010 Inductees: Jason Witten (NFL Dallas Cowboys, University of Tennessee, Elizabethton High School, Vienna Youth Inc.), Nick Hilgert (Robinson HS), Richard Herman (Ft. Belvoir Youth Sports).

Football Official of the Year—Youth Sports: John Page (Fairfax County Football Officials Association).

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Solomon Thompson, Jr. (President, Blue Collar Objects, Inc.).

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Joe Swarm (Director of Student Activities, Marshall HS).

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: Damian Caracciola (Southwestern Youth Association).

FCFHF Awards \$1,500 Scholarships: Greg Gadell (O'Connell HS), Cody Canard (Robinson HS), Nick Grinups (Westfield HS) and Emily Andrukonis (Fairfax HS).

High School Players of the Year: Kevin Samson (Madison HS), Anton McCallum (Hayfield HS), Josh Hogan (Woodson HS), Brian Laiti (Robinson HS), Hunter Debutts (Episcopal HS), Bo Revell (Battlefield HS).

High School Coaches of the Year: Mickey Thompson (Stone Bridge HS), Jim Poythress (Lake Braddock HS).

Youth Players of the Year—Youth Sports: Steven Steenson (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Tucker Harrell (McLean Youth Football), Connor McCulloch (Alexandria Recreation), Nicholas Render (Southwestern Youth Association), Devin Saunders (Ft. Belvoir Youth Football), Christopher Wilson (Manassas Youth Football), Nick Bruno (Dulles South Youth Sports), Greg Smith (Ft. Hunt Football & Cheerleading), Max Heinemann (Reston Youth Football), Jordan McIntyre (South County Athletic Assoc), Jake Jenkins (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Brendan McCarron (Springfield Youth Club), Michael Ficara (Chantilly Youth Association), Tylar Thompson (Lee Franconia Football), Andrew Greer (Braddock Road Youth Club), Luke Kaplon (Braddock Road Youth Club).

Coaches of the Year—Youth Sports: Dan Puhlick (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Brian Edwards (Manassas Youth Football), Chuck Martin (Gum Springs), Derek Wisnieski (Arlington Recreation).

Cheerleaders of the Year: Kaylie Canestra (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Imani Carpenter (Southwestern Youth Association), Morgan Clay (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Shannon Kelley (Herndon Optimist Club), Gabrielle Turner (Dulles South Youth Sports).

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Fairfax County Youth Football League as well as those students, coaches and community leaders who are being honored at this 2010 Hall of Fame celebration.

HONORING MS. JUNE KENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Ms. June Kent. Ms. Kent served her constituency faithfully and justly during her tenure as a member of the Ellington Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Kent served her term with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Kent is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of her today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTHA SPRIGGS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to fellow Minnesotan Martha Spriggs for receiving the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Ms. Spriggs has been selected by a blue ribbon committee of education and policy leaders appointed by state departments of education. The award acknowledges her exceptional talent as a classroom teacher, leader in education, and friend to students, colleagues, and administrators. The children of Andersen United Community School in Minneapolis benefited from her work, as well as the dedication of many other skilled professionals.

Madam Speaker, the foundations of our democracy ultimately rest not only on the rights and liberties which we share, but also the willingness and dedication of its citizens to enter the education profession and educate our youth. History has been a powerful reminder of the need for a vibrant and well-educated society to complement the institutions of government in a healthy democracy. Martha Spriggs has certainly done her part and I commend her for her service.

HONORING BENJAMIN HOOPER

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Benjamin Ryan Hooper of Boy Scout Troop 317 in Johns Creek, Georgia.

By reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, Benjamin has done something that fewer than two percent of all who participate in Scouting ever

achieve. This accomplishment is worthy of honor and recognition in its own right, but it is not why I speak to you today. Instead, I rise to commend Benjamin for the heroism he displayed, with the help of his brother Graham.

As residents of the Sixth District of Georgia, the Hoopers are constituents of mine. And like thousands of Georgians, they faced off against the devastating floodwaters that ravaged our State last September. This historic flood resulted in the deaths of at least ten Georgians. Fourteen Georgia counties were declared federal disaster areas, and the cost of the damage has been estimated at \$500 million. It was a difficult time, to say the least. But thanks to the actions of Benjamin Hooper, his family was able to avoid an even greater tragedy.

On September 21, 2009, Benjamin and his brother Graham arrived home from school to learn that two of their younger brothers had been playing in a flooded area and got caught in the rising waters and strengthening current. They had each managed to grab hold of a tree but were unable to get away from the rushing waters. These two young boys were now in grave danger of being swept away.

Upon hearing this, Benjamin jumped back in his car and raced to the scene. He quickly jumped into the water in an attempt to reach his stranded brothers, but the debris-filled creek was moving too quickly. Graham and Mrs. Hooper soon arrived with a length of garden hose which they passed to the two struggling boys so they could be pulled to safety. One of the boys made it, but the youngest brother Cole lost his grip and disappeared beneath the swiftly moving water.

Ignoring the danger to themselves, both Benjamin and Graham immediately jumped in after Cole. The current soon pulled Graham too far downstream, but once Cole surfaced, Benjamin was able to swim to his younger brother and hold his head above the water. The raging current then carried the boys downstream where they passed through a tunnel beneath a nearby road. By this point, the water level had risen to only a few feet below the top of this tunnel.

After successfully navigating this danger, Benjamin passed Cole off to Graham, who was now stationed by a nearby tree. Graham was then able to pull Cole out of the creek, but Benjamin was forced to continue swimming until he reached an area where the current had subsided. After exiting the creek himself, Benjamin walked back to his now reunited family, checked everyone for injuries, took steps to prevent the onset of hypothermia, and helped to calm his understandably upset mother. Miraculously, none of the Hooper boys had suffered serious injuries despite the life threatening peril they endured.

For his courageous and quick action, the Boy Scouts of America awarded Benjamin Hooper the Medal of Honor with Crossed Palms. Only 231 of these medals have been awarded since its inception in 1938. In the humble fashion always exhibited by true heroes, Benjamin said after receiving the award that, "I was just there at the right time."

So it is with great admiration that I pay tribute to Benjamin Hooper here in the U.S. House of Representatives today. May our entire Nation take heed of both his immeasurable courage and tremendous humility.