

While others were out enjoying our great weather in Florida, Aadith was inside studying 10 hours a day on weekends. His hard work and dedication paid off with this national honor, along with winning a \$25,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.

Aadith brought with him to Washington his personal cheering section that included his father Subramaniam, his mother Suguna, and Michelle Anderson, his teacher from Palm Harbor Middle School.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks I will include for the benefit of my colleagues a report from the St. Petersburg Times by Theodora Ageles that describes in detail the tense competition that led to Aadith's title. It also talks about the pride his principal Victoria Hawkins and all of his classmates and teachers at Palm Harbor Middle School have in Aadith and the national acclaim he has brought their school.

Please join me in honoring and congratulating Aadith Moorthy as the 2010 National Geographic Bee champion and for months of hard work and study that resulted in a job well done.

PALM HARBOR STUDENT WINS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

(By Theodora Ageles)

Aadith Moorthy will get the star treatment in New York City today, a day after winning the 22nd annual National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C.

"I'm going to be interviewed on The Early Show, Fox 13, CNN and MSN tomorrow," he said Wednesday in a telephone interview while en route to the airport for his flight to New York. "I'm happy. I feel relieved that I don't have to study anymore."

The 13-year-old eighth-grader from Palm Harbor Middle School beat out nine other boys in a battle of world knowledge. He wins a \$25,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific west of Ecuador.

"I can take a break and get back to my singing," said Aadith, who gives local performances of Carnatic music, the classical music of southern India. "I haven't had much time to practice, and I've missed that."

Interestingly enough, he was put on the spot during introductions when host Alex Trebek asked him to sing a Carnatic tune.

The final question asked for the largest city in northern Haiti, which was renamed following Haiti's independence from France. The answer was Cap-Haitien. Aadith had it and gave a small fist pump.

"I feel great," Aadith said with a big smile shortly afterward. "The mission is accomplished."

His father, Subramaniam Satyamoorthy, gave him a hug and bowed slightly before his geography whiz son.

When writing 20 new facts a day helped him win the state championship, Aadith boosted his fact writing to 50 a day studying for the national bee. That preparation helped him advance to the final 10 Tuesday and win it all Wednesday.

By now, "he has enough (knowledge) for a couple of books," his father said.

Aadith spent most of the bee, though, on the edge of defeat. He was the only contestant to answer incorrectly in the first round of Wednesday's finals and would have been eliminated if he was wrong again. He acknowledged he was scared, but nerves didn't throw the aspiring physicist.

"We were worried when he missed that question in the first round," said Aadith's mother, Suguna Moorthy. "Now we are so

happy there are no words to express how we feel.

"He spent so many hours preparing. On school days, he studied geography before he completed his homework. On weekends he studied 10 hours a day."

His teacher, Michelle Anderson, who also traveled to Washington to watch Aadith compete, said that misstep didn't shake his confidence.

"His first question was really tough," Anderson said. "It was something about which city had 71/2 million people within its city limits. He had three choices.

"Aadith knew it wasn't Kiev. When he chose Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and it was Kinshasa, he didn't lose his concentration. He stayed focused, which says a lot for his control, his stamina and endurance. And he took the whole competition."

Aadith clinched the victory with knowledge of Botswana, Argentina and Sweden in the best-of-five final round, as his final opponent, 13-year-old Oliver Lucier of Wakefield, R.I., stumbled.

"They were hard. They were really hard," Oliver said of the final questions.

Still, Oliver, a soccer player, will take home a \$15,000 scholarship for second place. Karthik Mouli, 12, of Boise, Idaho, came in third to win a \$10,000 scholarship. Both runners-up also represented their states at the national bee last year.

Right after the victory, Aadith and his proud entourage were giving nonstop interviews to television crews, newspaper reporters and radio show hosts. A few hours later, he was off to New York.

Aadith knows he will get a break on Friday when he comes home, but when he was asked what he's looking forward to, he said, "Sleeping in my own bed."

Principal Victoria Hawkins of Palm Harbor Middle School is thrilled for Aadith, the school and the school district.

"We are so proud of him," she said. "He is an unbelievable student with a huge thirst for knowledge."

His teacher, Anderson, said she "felt a sense of immense joy and pride when he answered the winning question."

"I'm proud to have had a small role in helping him. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Fast facts

Questions asked in the final round

1. Tswana is a Bantu language spoken by the largest ethnic group in what land-locked country? Answer: Botswana.

2. The Oresund Bridge opened in 2000; it connects Copenhagen, Denmark, with what Swedish city? Answer: Malmö.

3. Cam Ranh Bay has served as a naval base for Japan, France, U.S. and the former Soviet Union. This bay is located in which country. Answer: Vietnam.

HAMMOND ROTARY CLUB HONORS BILL BEATTY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. William Beatty, who has been recognized by the Hammond Rotary Club as an outstanding club member who has demonstrated consistent achievement in mentoring young men and women in the community of Hammond and throughout Northwest Indiana. His devotion to teaching

young people the importance of community service is to be commended. For his outstanding efforts, he will be presented with the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award by the Hammond Rotary Club on Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

The Hammond Rotary Club was established in 1920, adhering to the principles of Rotary International: "World Peace through Understanding" and "Service above Self." These values are vigorously upheld by the Hammond Rotary Club members, who passionately serve their community. Each year, the club recognizes an individual or organization who enthusiastically reaches out to the youth of the community by honoring the recipient with the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award, and this year's recipient is William "Bill" Beatty.

Bill Beatty grew up in Hammond, Indiana and is a proud graduate of Hammond High School. He went on to attend Purdue University where he studied mechanical engineering. After college, Bill joined the family business, which at the time was called Beatty Machine, and is now known as Beatty International. In 1975, Bill succeeded his father and became the company's leader. In addition to his amazing career, Bill has been involved with the Hammond Rotary for many years and is recognized for his work with the youth of the community as well as his positive attitude and contagious laugh. He has been the inspiration behind the Hammond Robotics Team, a science and technology competitive team, and has led these students to many State, regional, and national championships. In addition, he has assisted other school districts in forming their own robotics teams. His willingness to encourage and guide the youth of the community is constant and unwavering, and it is because of his efforts that he is the recipient of the 2010 Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award.

Bill's dedication to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Bill and his wonderful wife, Lisa, have two beloved sons, Brian and Jeff.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Bill Beatty on receiving the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award, and in honoring the Hammond Rotary for their outstanding contributions to the community of Hammond and all of Northwest Indiana. Their constant commitment to improving the quality of life for countless individuals in Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational, and they are worthy of the highest praise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 246–248 on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 246–248 on May 5, 2010 because I was on official business. I would like to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 246, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res.