

Currently, volunteers are serving in 76 countries, providing development assistance while fostering new bonds of friendship and seeking common ways to address global challenges. Over 400 men and women have volunteered from California's Sixth District, including the following current volunteers: Chase Adam, Samantha Atkins, Gail Bachman, Ashley Baker, Elizabeth Bremner, Alicea Cock-Esteb, Rebecca Como, Lindsay Crawford, Douglas Cruickshank, Jed D'Abraanel, Catherine Fabiano, Scott Fergus, David Gomez, Stevie Greenwell, Daniel Grinnell, James Gurney, Peter Hoge, David Hughes, Matthew Ingalls, Christina Long, Ryan Loughlin, Mary McQuilkin, Reid Miller, Courtenay Pinder, Ryan Reichert, Rickey Russell, Nur-Aliyya Shelley, Robin Smith, Jessica Wright, and Pat Wrobel-Dickens.

Madam Speaker, the 49th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps is an achievement that we should all commemorate. I celebrate the leadership and accomplishments of these compassionate Americans who have committed themselves to promoting global peace, diplomacy, and understanding.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Youth Football League and to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports teaches our youth many lessons that will serve them well throughout life. These invaluable lessons include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and maybe most importantly, the work ethic instilled by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal. Organized youth sports also contributes to our society; studies have shown a correlation between participation in sporting activities and doing well in school. Some studies indicate that reduction in gang activity can be partially attributed to refocusing at risk youth into organized, supervised activities such as youth sports.

I applaud the Fairfax County Youth Football League for the opportunities that they provide 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 Colar 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 benefit 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.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,643,701,402,529.55.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,005,275,656,235.75 so far this Con-

gress. The debt has increased \$7,038,446,389.48 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

**HONORING THE MEMBERS OF
CHEROKEE PATROL IN BOY
SCOUT TROOP 1011**

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of Cherokee Patrol in Boy Scout Troop 1011 for their achievements in Scouting.

Sponsored by Mount Bethel United Methodist Church in Marietta, Georgia, Troop 1011 has helped shape the lives of young men since its founding in 1972. Over the years, more than 200 members of Troop 1011 have attained the coveted rank of Eagle Scout. On March 21, they will add seven high school seniors to that list: Connor Reed Crank; Preston William Ehlers; Kirkland Douglas Malcolm; George Capron Merriam; C. Joseph Privateer; James Benjamin Stamberger; and Alexander Conrad Walgren.

In Scouting, troops typically are subdivided into smaller groups known as patrols. And the seven young men just mentioned represent the complete membership of Troop 1011's Cherokee Patrol. Fewer than two percent of all young men who begin Scouting ever become Eagle Scouts, so it is exceedingly rare for each member of a single patrol to reach this pinnacle.

In fact, Madam Speaker, it is downright extraordinary for an entire patrol to be awarded the rank of Eagle on the exact same day.

For meeting certain measures in addition to this rare achievement, Cherokee Patrol has also received the Honor Patrol Award. This award is only bestowed upon patrols whose membership makes the extra effort to be exemplary Scouts. Clearly these seven new Eagle Scouts pass that test with flying colors.

I wish every one of these fine young men the very best in their future endeavors.

**CONGRATULATING BARBARA
POSEY ON HER RECEIPT OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Barbara Posey upon her receipt of the Congressional Gold Medal on March 10, 2010 for her service with the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs).

During World War II more than sixty years ago, the Women's Air Force Service Pilots worked under the direction of the United States Army Air Forces. These female civilian pilots flew fighter, bomber, transport, and train-

ing aircraft. The women of the WASPs pioneered the contribution of American women to the war effort. This commitment to their country was a catalyst for the reform that led to the integration of women pilots into the U.S. Armed Services.

Mrs. Posey's dedication to flying began when she became captivated during her first trip on board a plane. The joy she felt in the air led her to pursue her dream to become a pilot. She traveled to Cortland, New York to earn her pilot's license and in January of 1944, joined the WASPs. At Avenger field in Sweetwater, Texas she completed the same training program required by male pilots. Barbara Posey was one of 1,074 graduates of the program, and served as a test pilot at Shaw Army Airfield in Columbia, South Carolina, flying repaired planes that had been damaged in training operations. Although the director of the program had intended to militarize and commission the pilots, the improving military situation in 1944 reduced the need for additional pilots to be sent overseas.

In January of 1945, Barbara married John Posey before he left for the Pacific theatre. She has been blessed with 8 children, 27 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. Before her retirement in 1986, she continued her excitement for aviation by helping with a grassroots aviation effort in the Delaware Valley.

Madam Speaker, once again I applaud Barbara Posey for her dedication, service and accomplishment. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to her on the momentous occasion of being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress can award. I am honored to represent Barbara Posey in Congress.

HONORING ISAAC ALLEN AMES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Isaac Allen Ames, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 134, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Isaac has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Isaac has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Isaac Allen Ames for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.