

May 31, 2007

TEMPLE TERRACE, Fla. - Today, in recognition of his service to his community and his dedication to his own personal development, U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) will present Hillsborough County resident Zac Flowerree with the **Congressional Award Silver and Bronze Medals**.

"The Congressional Award provides an opportunity for America's youth to give back to their communities, while learning the value of setting challenging goals and achieving them," said Rep. Bilirakis. "I congratulate Zac upon his completion of the Congressional Award. He has done a remarkable job giving back to his community and committing to his own personal development and aspirations."

Established in 1979 as a nonpartisan private-public nonprofit partnership open to youth ages 14-23, the Congressional Award cannot be won; it must be earned. To qualify, participants must set and achieve challenging goals for the betterment of themselves and their communities in four program areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration.

Mr. Flowerree's work exemplifies the cornerstones of the Congressional Award. In pursuit of the Bronze and Silver medals, he volunteered with the Debate Club and helped other students strengthen their debate skills. For the personal development dimension, Zac improved his public speaking abilities and participated in several community-based speech contests. To meet the physical fitness requirement, he improved his Golf game and met upper body fitness goals. Finally, for the expedition/exploration requirement, Zac planned and completed a two-night trip down the Hillsborough River.

Since its inception, more than 6,500 Congressional Awards have been earned by America's youth, representing well over 1.5 million volunteer hours performed in communities across the country. The only other medal awarded by the United States Congress is the Medal of Honor.

For more information about the Award, call 1-888-80-AWARD or visit the web site at: www.congressionalaward.org

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