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Henry Sibley 2010 graduate awarded The Congressional Award Gold Medal

(Mendota Heights, Minn.) --- Hannah Nemer, a 2010 graduate of Henry Sibley High School, was awarded *The Congressional Award Gold Medal* on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, at the Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington, DC. At this year's event, Members of Congress and community leaders honored more than 250 recipients of the *The Congressional Award Gold Medal*, of which Nemer was one of only four from Minnesota.

In order to qualify as a medalist, Nemer dedicated hundreds of hours to Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Expedition/Exploration. She was among participants from a variety of backgrounds that represented nearly all fifty states.

Nemer participated in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program as well as Youth Service America for her public service. Her personal development came through participation in speech and debate, her physical fitness through playing tennis, and her expedition/exploration through family camping trips and a two-week field research expedition.

Her work exemplified the cornerstones of the Congressional Award: service to others and achievement. "I am honored to be a *Congressional Award Gold Medal* recipient," says Nemer. "A significant portion of my Congressional Award experience was my 500 plus hours of public service...this program has pushed me to explore all facets of my identity."

Participating as an active member of Henry Sibley's speech and debate team also proved to be an invaluable experience for Nemer. "Over the past four years, my personal development through debate and speech has also brought me closer to the global community," says Nemer. "I have analyzed complex social issues, discovering my passion for public policy."

Throughout the year, Congressional Award Medalists are honored at local ceremonies and medal presentations by Members of Congress at the district and state levels. Since its inception in 1979, the Congressional Award has recognized thousands of young Americans committed to serving their country and improving themselves, representing over 3 million hours of public service and 30,000 students.

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