

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL 13) presented a Congressional Gold Medal Award to a young Bradenton resident. The Congressional Award is a non-partisan, voluntary award program created by Congress to recognize initiative, achievement, and service in young people. Buchanan awarded the highest honor to 17 year-old Cameron Addison of Riverview High School during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.



“To advance in life, it is important to set and achieve goals,” said Buchanan. “It is also important to help others. Cameron, I congratulate you for working to better yourself and your community and I welcome this opportunity to recognize your accomplishments.”

The Congressional Award program is open to all young Americans between the ages of 14 and 23. Participants set their own goals in four program areas, but must spend a minimum of two years or more completing at least 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness activities and a four-night expedition or exploration.

Cameron received the Gold Medal for his work with the Boy Scouts of America helping boys

earn the rank of Eagle Scout, his efforts through the Community Youth Development Organization to improve the lives of homeless people, and his week-long hikes in places like the jungles of Belize and the mountains in the Dominican Republic.

Only Gold Award earners receive a medal as well as recognition by the United States Congress. Other awards include Bronze and Silver Congressional Award Medals as well as Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Certificates.

The Congressional Award is Congress' only award program for youth.