

the international community that even its founders could not have envisioned. Since its founding with an inaugural class of 30 students from 16 countries, the Wien program has grown in stature and worldwide recognition. More than 800 students from over 100 countries have come to Brandeis as Wien Scholars.

Through the years, the Wien program has produced an impressive array of enlightened world leaders dedicated to making the world a better place. Wien Scholars have held important positions at the United Nations, served in prominent roles in national governments from Japan to Kenya to Iceland to the Philippines, and pursued life-saving medical breakthroughs. They have also distinguished themselves in the arts, business, education, law, and science.

I urge all of us, especially at this time of increasing ethnic and religious tensions around the world, to use the fiftieth anniversary of the Wien program to uphold the legacy of its founders by promoting the principles of understanding, tolerance, and acceptance.

CONGRATULATING MR. GREGORY  
MATTHEW PROSKE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Gregory Matthew Proske, for attaining the impressive rank of Eagle Scout.

Gregory has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America for the past 11 years. Joining as a Tiger Cub, he has shown dedication to the organization, successfully moving up the Boy Scout ranks over time. Gregory is a proud member of Troop 434 in the Trailblazer District in North Tarrant County, Texas.

Gregory went through a rigorous process to receive this honor. A scout must fulfill seven main requirements before achieving Eagle status. He was required to be active in his troop for a period of at least six months after he had achieved the rank of Life Scout and to demonstrate that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. He earned the expected 21 merit badges needed to qualify and served in a position of leadership in the scouts for at least 6 months. Gregory took part in a Scoutmaster conference, successfully completed an Eagle Scout board of review, and provided the Fort Worth community with a service project. Gregory reworked two planting beds at St. John the Apostle Catholic School in Fort Worth, Texas for his project.

A student at Nolan High School, Gregory plans to attend Texas A&M University, where he intends to become a member of the Corps of Cadets. Additionally, Proske aims to serve in the Air Force as a fighter pilot.

Madam Speaker, becoming an Eagle Scout is only the most recent in a string of impressive achievements, and I am confident Gregory will continue to excel in his future endeavors. I commend Gregory for his penchant for service, his commitment to the community, and this most remarkable accomplishment. He is a role model, both to young people and the entire North Texas area, and I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOLS  
EMPOWERED TO RESPOND ACT

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the former superintendent of public instruction in North Carolina, I am pleased today to introduce the Schools Empowered to Respond Act. This bill will put the federal government to work in partnership with states and local education agencies to support school preparedness planning, training, and equipment needs.

Schools are a vital resource in our community, and our children spend the majority of their daylight hours in our educational institutions. But schools are often overlooked when considering emergency preparedness and first responder needs. Even as teachers, administrators, and students are working together to make schools a safe place for learning, they can use additional help and guidance to make their planning as effective as possible.

When I surveyed principals in my district's schools in 2006 about emergency response planning, I learned that schools were keeping our children safe but, despite the lessons of 9/11, the federal government was doing little to improve emergency planning and disaster mitigation at schools. I then asked the Government Accountability Office to survey schools across the nation. They spoke to school personnel in Washington State, Iowa, Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, and my own state of North Carolina. Last June, they reported the same thing I found in the 2nd District: schools want to improve their security, but need support and guidance to make improvements.

The Schools Empowered to Respond Act gives schools this support and guidance. It takes simple but important steps to make sure that schools have the help they need to keep our kids safe. State governments and education officials know what is best for their communities and their students, and this bill supports their work to keep schools safe and secure places to learn.

It gives school officials a "one-stop shop" in the Department of Homeland Security they can look to for advice, best practices, and assistance for school security planning. This office will coordinate federal initiatives such as the Safe Schools Initiative, Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools, and Safe and Drug Free Schools to ensure that resources get to the schools that need them. The bill also ensures that schools are eligible for emergency planning grants from DHS to improve school security. Given the vital role that schools serve in our communities, it ensures that teachers and administrators, school resource officers, and school emergency planning officials have a prominent voice in our national homeland security response. In short, it empowers school personnel to continue their good work and to implement their plans for school security by giving them the guidance and resources they need to keep our children safe.

Given recent events at schools across the country, we as a nation simply must invest in important priorities like emergency planning to ensure our schools remain prepared for any

emergency. I am proud to be taking steps to help schools with their emergency planning, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Schools Empowered to Respond Act today.

TRIBUTE TO MATAYA HULING

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a great achievement by a young American from Garner, Iowa. This Sunday, April 13, Mataya Huling will be presented with The Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest achievement possible within the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

According to the Girl Scouts, the Gold Award project is the culmination of all the work a girl puts into "going for the Gold." It is something that a girl can be passionate about—in thought, deed, and action. The project is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills.

This award is certainly very prestigious, as last year only 5.4 percent of all eligible Girl Scouts received the Gold Award.

According to the Garner Leader and Signal newspaper, Mataya's Gold project was to redo the Garner-Hayfield High School Drama Department prop room. Mataya has been actively involved in drama programs since her days in junior high school. She worked 80 hours to organize, clean, repair and properly store props, costumes and materials used by the drama department.

Previously Mataya earned the Girl Scout Silver Award by planning and presenting several bike safety workshops for younger troop members and pre-school age children.

Along with her dedication to Girl Scouts, Mataya is involved in countless other activities in her school and community including chorus, band, GAP Teen Council, golf, and has volunteered teaching Sunday Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Mataya is a shining example of the dedication, determination and faith present in today's youth and their promise as tomorrow's leaders. I am proud to represent Mataya and her parents, Mark and Missy, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in not only congratulating Mataya but also recognizing that maybe one day in the not too distant future we will see Congresswoman Mataya Huling serving in this historic institution.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
CHASE HUBER FOR WINNING THE  
BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: