(WASHINGTON)-- Congressman Allen West (R-FL) proudly presented The Congressional Award Gold Medal to six student constituents of Florida's 22nd District today during a ceremony at the United States Capitol. Five additional students from South Florida were unable to attend the ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Earning The Congressional Award Gold Medal requires a significant commitment as each student must spend two years 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.

"These students represent the best of the next generation," West said. "It is an honor to present them with this award, an accomplishment they will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

The Florida 22nd District 2012 winners of The Congressional Award Gold Medal are as follows:

Christian Dulcie
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Meghan Fallon
Jupiter, Florida

Robert Jacobs
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Heather Klotz
Royal Palm Beach, Florida

Grace Marrero
Jupiter, Florida

Allison Wrieden

Jupiter, Florida

Hailey Cunningham
Palm Beach, Florida

Eric Gfesser
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Kelly Higgins
North Palm Beach, Florida

Pauline Thiemann
North Palm Beach, Florida

Allison Puchferran
Boca Raton, Florida

For full biographies on all of the award winners, click here.

For the photo gallery of today's awards ceremony, click here.