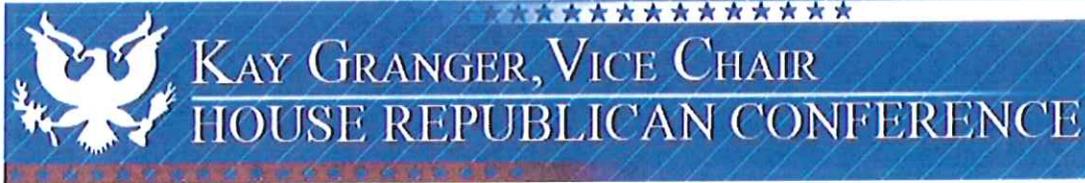




III. AWARDS/HONORS



Best Practice: High School Graduate Certificates

Member: John Kline, MN-02

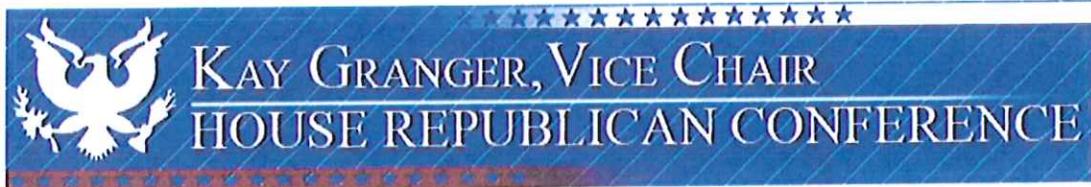
How it works:

- ❖ DC staff purchases high school graduation certificates from the House Office Supply Store and sends to the district office.
- ❖ District staff works with school districts and high schools in the district to obtain names and addresses of high school seniors.
- ❖ Staff then enters all names into a database and prints off certificates and letters of recognition, which are then mailed to the homes of graduating seniors.
- ❖ If the school is unable or unwilling to provide home addresses due to privacy concerns, many are still willing to include our certificate and letter in the graduation packet/diploma given to the students.

The Benefits:

- ❖ While this project receives no press coverage, the certificates are a great way to recognize constituent achievement.

Member Office Contact: Brooke Dorobiala, (202) 225-2271 or Mike Oskopp, (952) 808-1213



Best Practice: Veterans Medal Ceremony

Member: Ginny Brown-Waite, FL-05; Pete Hoekstra, MI-02

How it works:

- ❖ District office staff will identify veterans in the district who have yet to receive their service medal (all soldiers who serve on the battlefield qualify for one) through veteran's services organizations.
- ❖ After doing this, the veteran(s) signs a privacy authorization form and provides the Member office with all the appropriate discharge paperwork (DD214 forms). The Member office processes the forms and receives the medals in the office.
- ❖ District office should reserve a venue and schedule a time to award the medals to the veterans, and send out invitations three weeks beforehand. Outside veterans groups should be invited as well [local VSO's, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion]. If there are a large number of veterans to receive their award, the Member can hold the event at a VFW post.
- ❖ The press secretary should invite all county press, including local TV and radio and reporters who cover veteran's issues.
- ❖ Oftentimes there will be accompanying Congressional Record proclamations if they are outstanding medals or for great stories.

The Benefits:

- ❖ Honors veterans from the Member's district.
- ❖ Generates well-publicized contact between the Member and their district.

Member Office Contact: Charlie Keller, (202) 225-1002 (Brown-Waite);
Paula Van Dyke, (202) 225-4401 (Hoekstra)



Best Practice: Congressional Art Competition Calendar and Art Show

Member: Peter Hoekstra, MI-02

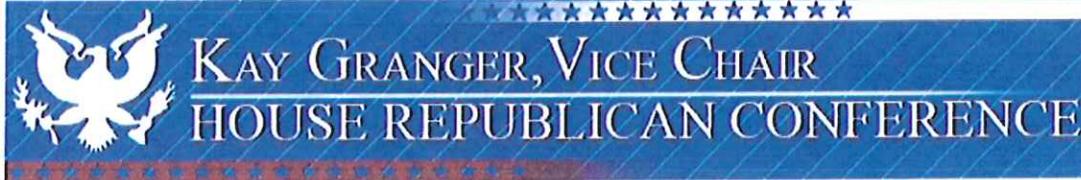
How it Works:

- ❖ Conduct the Congressional Art Competition in your District. Guidelines and contact info for the art competition is available on the HouseNet Homepage at <http://housenet.house.gov/>.
- ❖ Partner with a local business to scan the artwork, design a calendar with the winning pieces and publish/print the calendars.
- ❖ Select a district 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to be the recipient of the calendars. They distribute the calendar at no charge to participants and donors involved with their organization. Often a district theme for the competition is selected to complement the nonprofit organization.
- ❖ Frame the winning piece for the D.C. office and frame or mat the other 11 pieces following the guidelines for the competition.
- ❖ Show the 11 original art pieces, along with a copy of the winning DC artwork, at district libraries and other appropriate venues for a month to six-week period. Near the end of the year, the traveling art show is turned over to the non-profit to utilize with the release of the calendar. At the end of the current school year, all artwork is returned to the artists.

The Benefits:

- ❖ Showcases the artistic talents of young artists throughout the district and demonstrates the Member's support for the arts.
- ❖ Allows the Member office to develop personal relationships with prominent district businesses and local nonprofits and increases visibility of Member office throughout the district.

Member Office Contact: Paula Van Dyke, (202) 225-4401



Best Practice: "Star of the North" Award Ceremony

Member: John Kline, MN-02

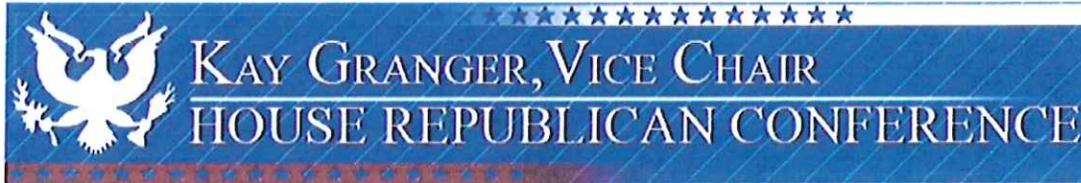
How it works:

- ❖ District staff monitors local newspapers for articles on volunteers who assisted the community in some way after a natural disaster (tornados, floods, hurricane - Katrina) or performed an outstanding philanthropic good deed.
- ❖ The Member office contacts the outstanding volunteer to honor their service and invites them to attend an event to honor their service.
- ❖ The Member office then secures a location, sends out invitations, prepares the certificates and executes the event.
- ❖ No outside groups are involved in the preparation but local groups (i.e. students' councils, girl scouts/boy scouts, companies, etc...) that offered volunteers will be recognized at the ceremony.
- ❖ The Member press secretary contacts local media to attend event; takes photos for website and e-newsletter.

The Benefits:

- ❖ Increases Member outreach to constituents.
- ❖ Good press event.

Member Office Contact: Steven Sutton, (202) 225-2271



Best Practice: Congressional Record Reprint

Member: Mike Rogers, MI-08

How it works:

- ❖ Members can recognize the outstanding achievement of constituents by placing a tribute in the *Congressional Record*.
- ❖ After the Member office submits a tribute for the record, the member office can send a special copy of the tribute to the constituent.
- ❖ One method is to print it on thick stock paper; another way is to have it reproduced on parchment paper. Both are suitable for framing.

The Benefits:

- ❖ The constituent will be greatly honored being remembered in such a fashion.

Member Office Contact: Josh Finestone, (202) 225-4872



KAY GRANGER, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Best Practice: Recognizing Most Improved Students

Member: Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18)

How it works:

- ❖ Schools in District choose four students who have demonstrated significant improvement over the school year
- ❖ These students are sent a congratulatory note from the Member encouraging them to keep up the great work, stay in school and continue their education
- ❖ There is an awards ceremony held at the local high school (which in Ros-Lehtinen's case happens to be her alma mater)
- ❖ Congressional certificates are presented to the students at the event

The Benefits:

- ❖ Reaches students who often times are not recognized in school or who may be prone to drop out of school and encourages them to continue their hard work, emphasizing the importance of education in their lives
- ❖ Good Member outreach

Member Office Contact: Edward Simon, (202) 225-3931



KAY GRANGER, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Best Practice: Video Honoring Our Veterans

Member: Cliff Stearns (FL-06)

How it works:

- ❖ Member sets up visit with WW II veterans in the district to the Washington, D.C. area. Veterans visit WW II Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, etc. Member can also arrange for wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where Member escorts a small delegation from the group
- ❖ Using video of these events, Member's press secretary put together a 30-second piece to send to local TV to air on Veterans Day

The Benefits:

- ❖ Honoring veterans on a very special holiday

Member Office Contact: Paul Flusche, (202) 225-5744



KAY GRANGER, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Best Practice: Presentation of engraved Bible to families of every soldier who dies in Iraq or Afghanistan

Member: Zach Wamp (TN-03)

How it works:

- ❖ NO PRESS!
- ❖ For about \$50, the Member can have a Bible engraved with the name and rank of every soldier (eight in TN-03 so far) who gives their life for our country in Iraq and Afghanistan
- ❖ The Member presents the Bible (Wamp presents the Bible to the family on his knees) to the family, usually at the church or funeral home before the service, to personally thank them on behalf of the nation

The Benefits:

- ❖ Military families know you care for them and will always be with them even if it is painful for all

Member Office Contact: Helen Hardin, (202) 225-3271



KAY GRANGER, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Best Practice: Congressional Medal of Merit Ceremony

Member: Vernon J. Ehlers (MI-03)

How it works:

- ❖ In February, nomination forms are mailed to all high school principals in Member's district requesting a nomination of their high school's outstanding senior along with brief narrative about the student. Senior students are honored for having demonstrated exemplary citizenship and academic excellence in their high school careers. All must have been leaders in the areas of community service, school citizenship, and involvement in extracurricular activities.
- ❖ Medal of Merit presentation ceremony location is identified
- ❖ When completed nomination forms are returned, invitations to a presentation ceremony are sent to nominees, their families and nominating officials
- ❖ Member office issues press release announcing event; prints programs; medals are ordered; and Member signs certificates
- ❖ At ceremony, Member congratulates students for their role as future leaders of our nation and presents each nominee with a their medal
- ❖ As each nominee walks to the platform, the narrative is read about that student. The Member then takes a photo with the student which is later signed and a copy of which is sent to the student's family

The Benefits:

- ❖ Good Member outreach

Member Office Contact: Mary Ellen Sullivan, (616) 451-8383



KAY GRANGER, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Best Practice: Signing E.S.G.R. Support Statement

Member: David Davis (TN-01)

How it works:

- ❖ The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) 5 Star Statement of Support expresses the need for employers to honor the commitment of our servicemen & women
- ❖ Contact Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve (ncesgr-pa@osd.mil) to coordinate a signing session with the Member
- ❖ Coordinate with local military recruiter office to have uniformed military personnel present at signing
- ❖ Hold a signing session complete with pledge and prayer for troops

The Benefits:

- ❖ Natural in-district press opportunity
- ❖ Opportunity to show strong support for military is more than a phrase

Member Office Contact: Timothy Hill, (202) 225-6356