

*May 17, 2011*

Pleasanton, CA – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) today presented Claire Williams, a sophomore at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, with Bronze and Silver Congressional Award medals. The Congressman visited Claire’s leadership class and surprised her with a special presentation of the medals, after which he spoke to and took questions from the students in the class.

“I’m pleased to present Claire Williams with the Bronze and Silver Congressional Award medals,” said Rep. McNerney. “Claire committed hundreds of hours of her time to serving our community. She tutored students at the Pleasanton Library, served meals to those who are in need, and volunteered to help with events for foster children. She also worked hard to improve her piano and tennis skills and planned a trip to research her family’s history. Claire went above and beyond to meet her goals and earn the Bronze and Silver Congressional Award medals.”

The Congressional Award is Congress’ award for young people, ages 14 - 23. Participants earn the awards by setting goals for public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration. Participants earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award certificates and Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award medals.

Claire Williams completed over 600 hours of voluntary public service to earn this award. She worked at the Pleasanton Library with students in need of literacy tutoring, served meals through the Livermore based Open Heart Kitchen, and helped with two events for foster care children through Foster A Dream, a Bay Area organization that serves children in foster care.

Claire learned Beethoven's piano piece “Sonatina in G Major” and studied music theory to meet the personal development goal. She increased her strength and endurance on the tennis courts and advanced to a doubles spot on the varsity tennis team at Amador Valley High School. For her expedition, Claire planned a trip to Biella, Italy, where she traced the journey of her great-great-grandfather's immigration to the United States.

