

START MAKING A READER TODAY
(SMART) READING PROGRAM

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as Congress looks for innovative solutions to educate our Nation's children—our next generation of leaders—I'd like to call attention to a nonprofit reading program called SMART: Start Making A Reader Today. SMART is making a measurable difference for Oregon children who are falling behind. It has tremendous potential as a model for the Nation.

SMART's mission is to hook children on reading at an early age. By connecting children with community volunteers for weekly one-on-one reading sessions—and giving each student free books to take home and keep—SMART cultivates a supportive environment where reading skills build quickly and confidence grows just as fast.

Perhaps most importantly, SMART delivers proven results. Independent research shows that children who participate in SMART develop key reading skills faster than their peers, and maintain these gains after leaving the program. In fact, fifth graders who have been in SMART are 60 percent more likely than their peers to reach the state benchmark in reading.

SMART began 12 years ago in eight schools and has since grown to serve more than 11,000 children annually in 31 of Oregon's 36 counties. About 9,000 adults each year volunteer with SMART in more than 260 public elementary schools.

SMART's unique track record of mobilizing whole communities to invest in their local schools has been pivotal to the program's ongoing success. By engaging so many people to make community literacy a priority, SMART is helping to create an educated workforce for the next generation. It is helping Oregon build a solid economic future.

Please join me in making SMART and other proven early reading programs a funding priority this year.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE OUT-
STANDING TEACHING CAREER
OF JULIAN SMITH

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a great North Carolinian and teacher in the Chatham County public schools, Mr. Julian Smith.

Mr. Smith received a B.S. degree in Agriculture Education from the University of North Carolina in 1965. In July of 1965 he began teaching in the Chatham County Schools where he remains to this day. He augmented his education with a Masters degree in Agriculture Education from North Carolina State University in 1971. This is truly a man who gathers knowledge in order to impart more to his students.

Mr. Smith has taught and continues to teach horticulture and floriculture to Chatham county

students. He is well-liked, admired and respected by the students, parents and faculty of Chatham Central High School and throughout the county's schools because he has tremendous knowledge about his field of teaching. He began winning first place awards for Horticulture and Floriculture in 1975 and is still winning. I will submit his list of awards so that Congress can see his many, many awards!

In addition, Mr. Smith has been recognized county-wide by Chatham County public schools as their Teacher of the Year for the school years, 1980–1981, 1981–1982 and 1986–1987. He has been named Chatham County Central High School Teacher of the Year for the school years 1980–1981, 1981–1982, 1986–1987 and 1993–1994. In 1995 he was one of only 6 teachers to be recognized as a National Regional Teacher of the Year.

His principal at Bear Creek Central High School had this high praise for him, "Mr. Smith is one of the educators that will come along once in a lifetime. He is a mentor, and an innovator. He is humble, yet driven to succeed. His students will fondly remember the impact that he made for several years after they leave Chatham Central High School. They will realize that they weren't simply taught the subjects of horticulture and floriculture; they were trained for the real world application of both."

Mr. Speaker, North Carolina is truly blessed to have the abilities and talents of a teacher like Julian Smith teaching and shaping its young minds. I am pleased that Chatham County recognizes the talents of this wonderful teacher, and I am pleased to be able to recognize him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

JULIAN SMITH RESUMÉ

HONORS

1997 North Carolina State Outstanding Alumni from Agriculture Education
1995 National Regional Agriculture Teacher of the Year (Six in the U.S.)
1980–1981; 1981–1982; 1986–1987 Chatham County Teacher of the Year
1980–1981; 1981–1982; 1986–1987; 1993–1994 Chatham Central High School Teacher of the Year
Tarheel of the Week—Raleigh News & Observer—January, 2000

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FFA TITLES

1965 First Place Tool Identification
1966 First Place Tool Identification
1970 North Carolina State FFA Officer
1971 First Place Parliamentary Procedure
1974 First Place Horticulture
1977 First Place Horticulture
1978 First Place Horticulture
1979 First Place Floriculture & Nursery/Landscape
1980 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1981 First Place Floriculture
1982 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1983 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1984 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1985 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1986 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1987 First Place in Prepared Public Speaking
1988 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1989 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1990 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1991 Second Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1992 First Place Floriculture and First Place Tool Identification

1993 First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Tool Identification, First Place in Creed
1994 First Place Floriculture
1995 First Place Floriculture
1996 First Place Floriculture, First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Forestry
1997 First Place Floriculture, First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Extemporaneous Public Speaking, First Place Tool Identification, Seventh Place Forestry and North Carolina State FFA Officer
1998 First Place Floriculture
1999 First Place Nursery
2000 First Place Tool Identification
2001 First Place Floriculture
2002 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
2003 First Place Floriculture
2004 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape

NATIONAL FFA TITLES:

1974 Tenth Place Horticulture
1977 Fifth Place Horticulture
1978 First Place Horticulture
1979 Ninth Place Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape
1980 Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1981 Second Place Floriculture
1982 Third Place Floriculture and Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1983 Ninth Place Floriculture and Fifth Place Nursery/Landscape
1984 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1985 First Place Floriculture—students also placed First, Second and Third individually—and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1986 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1987 Second Place Prepared Public Speaking
1988 Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1989 Second Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1990 Fifth Place Floriculture and Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1992 First Place Floriculture
1993 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1994 Fifth Place Floriculture
1995 First Place Floriculture
1996 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape and Eighth Place Forestry
1997 Second Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape (students also placed First, Second and Third individually)
1998 First Place Floriculture (high individual)
1999 First Place Nursery/Landscape
2001 Second Place Floriculture
2002 Fourth Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape (top two individuals)
2003 Second Place Floriculture Team
2004 Yet to be determined