

While others were out enjoying our great weather in Florida, Aadith was inside studying 10 hours a day on weekends. His hard work and dedication paid off with this national honor, along with winning a \$25,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.

Aadith brought with him to Washington his personal cheering section that included his father Subramaniam, his mother Suguna, and Michelle Anderson, his teacher from Palm Harbor Middle School.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks I will include for the benefit of my colleagues a report from the St. Petersburg Times by Theodora Ageles that describes in detail the tense competition that led to Aadith's title. It also talks about the pride his principal Victoria Hawkins and all of his classmates and teachers at Palm Harbor Middle School have in Aadith and the national acclaim he has brought their school.

Please join me in honoring and congratulating Aadith Moorthy as the 2010 National Geographic Bee champion and for months of hard work and study that resulted in a job well done.

PALM HARBOR STUDENT WINS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

(By Theodora Ageles)

Aadith Moorthy will get the star treatment in New York City today, a day after winning the 22nd annual National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C.

"I'm going to be interviewed on The Early Show, Fox 13, CNN and MSN tomorrow," he said Wednesday in a telephone interview while en route to the airport for his flight to New York. "I'm happy. I feel relieved that I don't have to study anymore."

The 13-year-old eighth-grader from Palm Harbor Middle School beat out nine other boys in a battle of world knowledge. He wins a \$25,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific west of Ecuador.

"I can take a break and get back to my singing," said Aadith, who gives local performances of Carnatic music, the classical music of southern India. "I haven't had much time to practice, and I've missed that."

Interestingly enough, he was put on the spot during introductions when host Alex Trebek asked him to sing a Carnatic tune.

The final question asked for the largest city in northern Haiti, which was renamed following Haiti's independence from France. The answer was Cap-Haitien. Aadith had it and gave a small fist pump.

"I feel great," Aadith said with a big smile shortly afterward. "The mission is accomplished."

His father, Subramaniam Satyamoorthy, gave him a hug and bowed slightly before his geography whiz son.

When writing 20 new facts a day helped him win the state championship, Aadith boosted his fact writing to 50 a day studying for the national bee. That preparation helped him advance to the final 10 Tuesday and win it all Wednesday.

By now, "he has enough (knowledge) for a couple of books," his father said.

Aadith spent most of the bee, though, on the edge of defeat. He was the only contestant to answer incorrectly in the first round of Wednesday's finals and would have been eliminated if he was wrong again. He acknowledged he was scared, but nerves didn't throw the aspiring physicist.

"We were worried when he missed that question in the first round," said Aadith's mother, Suguna Moorthy. "Now we are so

happy there are no words to express how we feel.

"He spent so many hours preparing. On school days, he studied geography before he completed his homework. On weekends he studied 10 hours a day."

His teacher, Michelle Anderson, who also traveled to Washington to watch Aadith compete, said that misstep didn't shake his confidence.

"His first question was really tough," Anderson said. "It was something about which city had 71/2 million people within its city limits. He had three choices."

"Aadith knew it wasn't Kiev. When he chose Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and it was Kinshasa, he didn't lose his concentration. He stayed focused, which says a lot for his control, his stamina and endurance. And he took the whole competition."

Aadith clinched the victory with knowledge of Botswana, Argentina and Sweden in the best-of-five final round, as his final opponent, 13-year-old Oliver Lucier of Wakefield, R.I., stumbled.

"They were hard. They were really hard," Oliver said of the final questions.

Still, Oliver, a soccer player, will take home a \$15,000 scholarship for second place. Karthik Mouli, 12, of Boise, Idaho, came in third to win a \$10,000 scholarship. Both runners-up also represented their states at the national bee last year.

Right after the victory, Aadith and his proud entourage were giving nonstop interviews to television crews, newspaper reporters and radio show hosts. A few hours later, he was off to New York.

Aadith knows he will get a break on Friday when he comes home, but when he was asked what he's looking forward to, he said, "Sleeping in my own bed."

Principal Victoria Hawkins of Palm Harbor Middle School is thrilled for Aadith, the school and the school district.

"We are so proud of him," she said. "He is an unbelievable student with a huge thirst for knowledge."

His teacher, Anderson, said she "felt a sense of immense joy and pride when he answered the winning question."

"I'm proud to have had a small role in helping him. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Fast facts

Questions asked in the final round

1. Tswana is a Bantu language spoken by the largest ethnic group in what land-locked country? Answer: Botswana.

2. The Oresund Bridge opened in 2000; it connects Copenhagen, Denmark, with what Swedish city? Answer: Malmö.

3. Cam Ranh Bay has served as a naval base for Japan, France, U.S. and the former Soviet Union. This bay is located in which country. Answer: Vietnam.

HAMMOND ROTARY CLUB HONORS BILL BEATTY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. William Beatty, who has been recognized by the Hammond Rotary Club as an outstanding club member who has demonstrated consistent achievement in mentoring young men and women in the community of Hammond and throughout Northwest Indiana. His devotion to teaching

young people the importance of community service is to be commended. For his outstanding efforts, he will be presented with the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award by the Hammond Rotary Club on Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

The Hammond Rotary Club was established in 1920, adhering to the principles of Rotary International: "World Peace through Understanding" and "Service above Self." These values are vigorously upheld by the Hammond Rotary Club members, who passionately serve their community. Each year, the club recognizes an individual or organization who enthusiastically reaches out to the youth of the community by honoring the recipient with the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award, and this year's recipient is William "Bill" Beatty.

Bill Beatty grew up in Hammond, Indiana and is a proud graduate of Hammond High School. He went on to attend Purdue University where he studied mechanical engineering. After college, Bill joined the family business, which at the time was called Beatty Machine, and is now known as Beatty International. In 1975, Bill succeeded his father and became the company's leader. In addition to his amazing career, Bill has been involved with the Hammond Rotary for many years and is recognized for his work with the youth of the community as well as his positive attitude and contagious laugh. He has been the inspiration behind the Hammond Robotics Team, a science and technology competitive team, and has led these students to many State, regional, and national championships. In addition, he has assisted other school districts in forming their own robotics teams. His willingness to encourage and guide the youth of the community is constant and unwavering, and it is because of his efforts that he is the recipient of the 2010 Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award.

Bill's dedication to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Bill and his wonderful wife, Lisa, have two beloved sons, Brian and Jeff.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Bill Beatty on receiving the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award, and in honoring the Hammond Rotary for their outstanding contributions to the community of Hammond and all of Northwest Indiana. Their constant commitment to improving the quality of life for countless individuals in Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational, and they are worthy of the highest praise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 246–248 on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 246–248 on May 5, 2010 because I was on official business. I would like to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 246, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res.

1320, "Expressing support for the vigilance and prompt response of the citizens and law enforcement agencies in New York and Connecticut to the attempted terrorist attack in Times Square, May 1, 2010," I would have voted aye;

For rollcall vote 247, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as to H. Res. 1272, "Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the May 4, 1970, Kent State University shootings," I would have voted aye;

For rollcall vote 248, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended, H. Res. 1301, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day," I would have voted aye.

ON MEMORIAL DAY AND EVERY DAY, LET US REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, as we recognize Memorial Day 2010, I wanted to remember each of the American Service Members from Florida's 7th Congressional District who have lost their life to hostile actions since 1996 as reported to me by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Let us remember all those who have fallen in service to our Nation. Let us never forget those who have served and paid the ultimate price so that we can live in this great land.

We must forever keep these heroes in our thoughts and prayers. Let us today, on Memorial Day and every day, thank the good Lord for their incredible sacrifice.

They have made it possible for all Americans to live in freedom. Let us also remember and pay tribute to the families and loved ones whose loss is immeasurable.

On Memorial Day and every day, let us continue in our hearts and minds to hold dearly all those who have served and are serving this Nation.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

1. Patrick Fennig, Air Force, Palm Coast—June 25, 1996, Khobar Towers.

2. Michael Heiser, Air Force, Palm Coast—June 25, 1996, Khobar Towers.

3. Brian McVeigh, Air Force, DeBary—June 25, 1996, Khobar Towers.

4. Kenneth Conde, Marines, Orlando—July 1, 2004, Iraq.

5. Jason Dwelley, Navy, Apopka—April 30, 2004, Iraq.

6. Bradley Fox, Army, Orlando—April 20, 2004, Iraq.

7. Arthur Mastrapa, Army, Apopka—June 16, 2004, Iraq.

8. Antoine Smith, Marines, Orlando—November 15, 2004, Iraq.

9. Theodore Bowling, Marines, Casselberry—November 11, 2004, Iraq.

10. Patrick Rapicault, Marines, St. Augustine—November 15, 2004, Iraq.

11. Arthur Williams, Army, Edgewater—December 8, 2004, Iraq.

12. Carlos Gil, Army, Orlando—February 18, 2005, Iraq.

13. Alwyn Cashe, Army, Oviedo—November 8, 2005, Iraq.

14. Gene Hawkins, Army, Orlando—October 12, 2006, Iraq.

15. Sean Tharp, Army, Orlando—March 28, 2006, Iraq.

16. Marco Miller, Army, Longwood—December 5, 2006, Iraq.

17. Nicholas Rogers, Army, Deltona—October 22, 2006, Iraq.

18. Angelo Vaccaro, Army, Deltona—October 3, 2006, Afghanistan.

19. John Mete, Army, Bunnell—September 14, 2007, Iraq.

20. Brandon Bobb, Army, Orlando—July 17, 2007, Iraq.

21. Sandy Britt, Army, Apopka—August 21, 2007, Iraq.

22. Alexander Rosa, Army, Orlando—May 25, 2007, Iraq.

23. Bryan Tutton, Army, St. Augustine—December 25, 2007, Iraq.

24. Adam Quinn, Army, Orange City—October 6, 2007, Afghanistan.

25. Robert Miller, Army, Oviedo—January 25, 2008, Afghanistan.

26. Jason Dahlke, Army, Orlando—August 29, 2009, Afghanistan.

27. Randy Haney, Army, Orlando—September 6, 2009, Afghanistan.

28. Anthony Davis, Army, Daytona Beach—January 6, 2009, Iraq.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, I was absent from the House floor, during rollcall vote No. 277 on H.R. 5325, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING MALAYSIA IN ITS 50TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Malaysia's 50th anniversary of Independence. Since Malaysia gained its independence from the United Kingdom on August 31, 1957, Malaysia has made tremendous progress toward democracy and economic growth. The road to democracy and economic stability has not been easy, with a number of bumps along the way; however, I believe it is important to recognize Malaysia's perseverance in moving its democracy and economy forward.

Today, Malaysia is a middle-income country with a multi-sector economy based on services and manufacturing. It is now our 10th largest trading partner and we are Malaysia's largest foreign investor. Since its independence, Malaysia has had one of the best economic records in Asia. Malaysia's GDP has grown by an average of 6.5 percent per year since 1957. The Malaysian government has taken an active role in ensuring that its economic development also benefits marginalized

groups, such as the ethnic Malays and other indigenous groups. Through economic programs, such as the New Economic Policy of 1971, the National Development policy, and the National Vision Policy, Malaysia has demonstrated its commitment to eradicate poverty, enhance the economic standing of ethnic and indigenous groups, promote education, and its intent to focus on higher-technology production. I believe it is also commendable that Malaysia has set a national goal to become a fully developed economy by the year 2020. With its historical progress, I believe it is feasible and I look forward to witnessing their progress and deepening our bilateral relations in the years to come.

In addition to our robust economic ties with Malaysia, I would also like to highlight our joint efforts to combat international terrorism. Malaysia has been a key ally to the U.S. and a leader in counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics in Southeast Asia. Through intelligence sharing, close cooperation in law enforcement, participation in joint exercises and trainings, Malaysia has been a tremendous partner in security cooperation. In May 2002, Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. on counterterrorism and we made a joint declaration that provides a framework for counterterrorism cooperation. As a progressive and moderate Muslim nation, Malaysia is a good example of a modern, prosperous, multi-racial, and multi-religious society.

Since coming to power in 2003, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has provided opportunities for the U.S. to improve diplomatic and political relations with Southeast Asian nations. As a moderate secular Islamic nation, Malaysia's experiences and cooperation could play a key role in coping with religious extremism, countering terrorism, and exerting a moderate influence on the Islamic community in Southeast Asia. Under Prime Minister Badawi's leadership, Malaysia is adopting an "Islam Hadhari" approach, which encourages and emphasizes a view of Islam that is focused on development, social justice, and tolerance. Malaysia's progressiveness is highly commendable and has the potential to have great influence internationally.

Malaysia has come a long way and, as a key ally to the United States, I would like to commend Malaysia for its continued progress and remarkable achievements and congratulate the people of Malaysia in their celebration of 50 years of independence.

HONORING ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Archbishop Hovnan Derderian on the 30th anniversary of his ordination into the Priesthood and the 20th anniversary of his elevation to the rank of Bishop. Archbishop Derderian is Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America. The Western Diocese covers the Western United States.

Archbishop Derderian was born in 1957 in Beirut, Lebanon. In 1980, he was ordained as a priest in the Armenian Apostolic Church. In