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Reps. Biggert and Holt Win George E. Brown, Jr. Award for Contributions to Science and Technology

Representatives Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Rush Holt (D-NJ) will receive the 2004 George E. Brown Jr. Award for their Contributions to Science and Technology as part of the ninth annual Congressional Visits Days (CVD). The award is presented annually by the Science-Engineering-Technology Work Group to Members of Congress who are effective advocates of federal science and technology. The Award is named for the late Representative George E. Brown, Jr. a long time member of Congress who made outstanding contributions to Federal support for science and technology over a long and distinguished career in Congress.

Rep. Biggert was noted for making a distinct mark in support of science in a relatively short time on Capitol Hill. Even as she is still in her third term, she is the Chairman of the Energy Subcommittee on the Science Committee. She has played an instrumental role in strengthening the Department of Energy's Office of Science and making it become more widely known and recognized on Capitol Hill. The "Biggert Bills" authorizing funds for the Office of Science have influenced the omnibus energy bill, and the Energy and water appropriations bills. She was also an original cosponsor of the National Science Foundation (NSF) "doubling" bill, and she took a leadership role in developing the Math and Science Partnership programs at NSF and in the Department of Education.

Rep. Holt is one of the rare scientists among legislators and in fact is one of two physicists on Capitol Hill. He has used that background in his activities as a Member of Congress and especially on the Science Committee. He has been a staunch supporter of science funding and an advocate of more balanced funding for NIH and the physical sciences. He pushed for the Math and Science Partnership programs and for more funding for the training of K-12 science and math teachers. Rep. Holt has been tireless in his efforts to convey to his fellow legislators and the general public a better understanding of what scientists and engineers do and how science will contribute to national economic growth and security. He is currently leading an effort to re-establish the Office of Technology Assessment in Congress.

Reps. Holt and Biggert have joined together to help launch the House Research and Development Caucus, which Rep. Holt chairs. The two will be honored at a reception in Room B-339 of the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill at 5:30 p.m. on March 3, 2004 in connection with the 9th Annual Congressional Visits Days.

Congressional Visits Days is the preeminent yearly event during which hundreds of scientists and engineers from around the country come to Washington for two days of briefings and visits to their Members of Congress. It is sponsored by the Science-Engineering-Technology Work Group, which is

composed of dozens of organizations representing a broad cross section of the science and technology in academia, the government and in private industry. This year Congressional Visits Days is March 3-4.

The two-day event kicks off on Wednesday, March 3 with remarks highlighting Fiscal Year 2005 budget issues by top figures from the Administration in science and technology, including Dr. Ray Orbach, Department of Energy Office of Science (invited), and Dr. Arden Bement, National Science Foundation Interim Director, followed by briefings by senior Congressional staff. The briefings take place Wednesday, March 3, 2:30-5 p.m. at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Auditorium, 1200 New York, Ave. NW.

Following a breakfast meeting on March 4 featuring Representative Nick Smith (R-MI) as speaker, CVD participants will visit their Members of Congress to discuss our nation's broad portfolio of investments in science, engineering and technology and provide a constituent voice to the members. The breakfast meeting takes place in Room 902, Hart Senate Office Bldg.

For more information on the award and Congressional Visits Days see <http://www.setcvd.org/>

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Editor's Note: Media are invited to attend the reception on March 3rd and Congressional Visits Day activities throughout the week.