

Brentwood NY, 1/22/07—On Monday, Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) paid a surprise visit to Brentwood High School Junior Meghan Ward on her last full day of school before leaving for Washington, DC to serve as a page for the U.S. House of Representatives. Teachers from Brentwood Schools surprised Meghan with funds for her travel costs to Washington from a collection taken by the school.

“The Page program has been a national treasure for 150 years. Former Representative Foley poisoned that treasure, but last Friday, we reformed it,” said Israel, referring to H.R. 475, Improving House Page Board Oversight, legislation that passed the House on January 19. “Meghan Ward has a reputation for bringing the best out of her fellow student and her teachers. I appointed her because she will bring the best out of the page program.”

“An opportunity like this is a once and a lifetime chance,” said Meghan Ward. “When I heard I could have the chance to work alongside Congress, I was astonished. I think this is going to be a life changing experience and I’m very grateful that I’ve been chosen to take on such a task like this.”

“Meghan’s optimistic disposition, along with her sincere desire to affect positive change via civic activism makes her an ideal candidate for the Congressional Page experience,” said Meghan’s guidance counselor Antoinette Shervington, who led a collection among teachers at Brentwood High School to pay for Meghan’s travel costs to Washington.

Israel nominated Meghan Ward to serve as a one of the 72 pages from across the country that will serve in the U.S. House of Representatives during the spring term. Meghan plays three sports, is a member of the orchestra and is actively engaged in community service projects. This page program gives participants the opportunity to meet students from around the country, attend special classes and seminars at the Page School, and serve the country’s leaders while working in the House of Representatives. The last page vacancy that Israel filled was in August 2004 when he nominated Wyandanch student Edwin Robinson.