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Six Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership “Ambassadors”
Presented with Congressional Gold Medals

(LOS ANGELES, CA – July 14, 2010) — Six high school students from Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) have been presented with Congressional Gold Medals, the highest honor bestowed upon young people by the United States Congress. HOBY is the nation’s top not-for-profit youth leadership development organization.

Signed into law in 1979, the Congressional Gold Medal is designed to promote initiative, achievement and excellence among youth. Through the program, young people are encouraged to set and achieve goals in public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration. The six honorees from HOBY were among 252 medals awarded to deserving young people across the country.

“HOBY’s partnership with the Congressional Award Foundation is designed to expand the opportunities for HOBY ambassadors to be acknowledged for the incredible work they are doing in their own communities,” said HOBY President and CEO Javier LaFianza. “Young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today ... and with the right motivation and encouragement that can make lasting impacts through volunteerism, service and leadership.”

HOBY ambassadors honored with Congressional Gold Metals were Kaitlyn Chana of Florida, Blake Delaplane of California, Deborah Rose of New Jersey, Alexander Serrano of Massachusetts, Holly Sirotta of Pennsylvania and Han-Wei Wu of New Jersey.

Later this month HOBY will host its 42nd annual World Leadership Congress at the University of California, Los Angeles. There, more than 400 youth ambassadors from the United States and at least 15 different countries will gather to hear from a distinguished group of leaders from various sectors in business, government, international affairs, science, medicine, media and education. Their week-long experience will include educational sessions, interactive workshops

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and training exercises, and a strong “Service Day” component where attendees will contribute a combined 3,200 hours of service to its four not-for-profit service-day partners: Habitat for Humanity – San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys, Heal the Bay, Tree People and Glamour Gals.

For more than 50 years, Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership has helped to cultivate tomorrow’s leaders by inspiring a global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. HOBYP programs annually provide nearly 10,000 local and international high school students the opportunity to participate in unique leadership training, service learning and motivation-building experiences. HOBYP also provides adults the opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of youth by volunteering, and today more than 4,000 volunteers and over 375,000 alumni proudly make up the HOBYP family. Further information may be obtained at www.hoby.org.

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