



SEATTLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

News Release

For immediate release: August 9, 2007

Contact: David Tucker, Media Relations, (206) 252-0203

Garfield High School student selected for congressional page program

Seattle Public Schools is proud to announce that 16 year old Philmon Haile, a Garfield High School student, has been selected by Speaker Nancy Pelosi for one of the few and coveted positions as a page serving in the House of Representatives. Nominated by Representative Jim McDermott of the 7th Congressional District, Philmon Haile will live near the nation's Capitol in page housing and will work in the House of Representatives during the upcoming fall term.



Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson said, "This is an exciting and fabulous opportunity for Philmon and will be an experience he remembers the rest of his life. He will have the rare opportunity to see the House of Representatives conduct our nation's business. We are very proud that a Seattle Public Schools student has been selected for this very unique program."

"I am very happy to have been selected to participate in the 2007-2008 House Page program," said Philmon Haile. "I'm very excited to be traveling to Washington, D.C. (a city that I've never been to). I'm very interested in politics, so I know this will be a wonderful and rewarding experience. This program is a great way I can give back to my country for what it has given to me and my family."

Philmon Haile, a junior at Garfield High School, has a long list of academic achievements, including maintaining a very high grade point average, winning the school's "What a Marvelous Student" award six times, winning a National Honor Roll award two years in a row, and receiving the Ku' Onesha Award, which is the academic achievement award given to African-Americans at Garfield High School. He also has an outstanding record of civic, community and extracurricular involvement, including Key Club, Kiwanis, One World Now! and Team Read, which tutors children who are reading below their grade level.

Haile's selection is especially poignant because his family emigrated from Eritrea where his father fought for independence and was wounded in battle. Philmon speaks Tigrigna, Eritrea's language, fluently. The family eventually escaped to Sudan and finally was able to come to the United States. As one person said in a letter of recommendation, "Being a naturalized citizen from the Horn of Africa, he has an immediate appreciation of what it means to be an American."

###