



TRIBUTE TO KEIL HILEMAN,
DAR OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF AMERICAN HISTORY
HON. DENNIS MOORE
OF KANSAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Keil Hileman of DeSoto, KS, who in April was awarded the national Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR] Outstanding Teacher of American History award. This award honors notable, full-time teachers of American history and related fields, such as social studies, government, and citizenship education. The teacher must have the ability to foster the spirit of American patriotism and loyal support of the United States and constitutional government and demonstrate the ability to relate the subject to modern life and events.

Sponsored by the Prairie Rose Chapter of the DAR, which is located in Overland Park, KS, in the Third Congressional District, Mr. Hileman was top winner in the state of Kansas and then selected for the national tribute from state winners from across the Nation and overseas. On June 30, 2007, Mr. Hileman will receive his award at DAR Continental Congress in Washington, D.C.'s Constitution Hall.

Mr. Hileman, who teaches at Monticello Trails Middle School in Shawnee, Kansas, says his passion is to make history a part of the students' quality world. His success centers on his "classroom museum," filled with a potpourri of 20,000 artifacts he uses to teach events in American history. He began his museum by bringing heirlooms from his own collection to his class, and it has grown to thousands of items from contributions by families of students and community

members. The historical artifacts, ranging from the ordinary but old to the extraordinary and rare, are all available for close examination by the students.

Among his many honors, Mr. Hileman was; the 2004 Kansas Teacher of the Year; the first Kansan to win the Horace Mann-National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, in 2004; and was one of four finalists for The National Teacher of the Year award. He has taught at the middle school level for 14 years in the DeSoto Unified School District, where his courseload includes an elective class using his artifacts collection called "Museum Connections." Additionally, he teaches a hands-on archaeology course at Johnson County Community College, a classroom museum course for teachers at MidAmerica Nazarene University and a graduate/undergraduate, artifact-supported history class at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Keil Hileman's classroom credo is: "explore your world, empower yourself and those around you, excel in everything you do!" I am proud to represent this outstanding educator and caring individual in the United States Congress. I join with the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in commending Mr. Hileman for this truly well-deserve honor and I hope that his dedication to educating young people serves as an inspiration for others to enter the teaching profession.