



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 2, 1992

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ATHENS STUDENT BECOMES KERR SCHOLAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Bryan Manzo, a student at Athens High School in Athens, West Virginia, has been chosen as a 1992 Malcolm H. Kerr Scholar in Arab and Islamic studies, according to U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV).

Bryan will be travelling to Kuwait in late June and will stay for approximately three weeks. During his stay, he will study Arab culture and affairs, meet with specialists in different fields important to Kuwaiti industry, and visit important cultural and governmental institutions throughout the country.

Since 1986, 218 Kerr Scholars have travelled throughout Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Kuwait logging 4,300 hours of community service along the way. The Kerr Scholars develop impressive insight into Arab affairs and use the experience to develop their communication skills.

Bryan is currently the vice-president of the student body at Athens High School. He is a member of the high school band and the football team, and has a strong interest in politics.

"Bryan is a fine young man who understands the ever-increasing need to understand the relationship the United States has with the Middle East. I am sure he will make the most of it," said Rahall.

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National Council on US- Arab Relations

March 11, 1992

Mr. Bryan J. Manzo
PO Box 299
Athens WV 24712

Dear Mr. Manzo:

Congratulations!

I am pleased to inform you of your selection to participate in the 1992 Malcolm H. Kerr Scholars Program in Arab and Islamic Studies this Summer. You will join the delegation of Scholars traveling to Kuwait. We were most impressed by the high quality of the finalists.

Let me take a moment to inform you about some of the highlights of the program you'll experience this Summer. The Kerr Scholars Program is designed to afford young Americans the opportunity to project themselves academically, perceptually, and emotionally into the daily life of an Arab and Islamic society. About 40 percent of the Program's focus will be academic, including daily Arabic language instruction and lectures on historical and cultural topics. Another 30 percent will include meetings and briefings with specialists in different fields and visits to significant industrial, cultural, and governmental institutions. The remaining 30 percent can be used in a variety of ways, but most choose to engage in individual activities designed to foster acquaintances with host country nationals.

We realize that you and your parents, and perhaps some of your friends as well, might have concerns about U.S. citizens travelling in the Middle East. The National Council continues to monitor events closely in the region before and during the period of the Program. We have informed our embassies in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Kuwait about the programs and they are supportive, as are State Department officials.

As the Kerr Program brochure and each of the National Council's Annual Reviews have indicated, Presidents Reagan and Bush could hardly have provided a more upbeat endorsement of the Program since it began in 1984. The same can be said for the American Ambassadors and Embassy staff in the countries where the program is conducted. Please be assured that the National Council will err on the side of caution in matters relating to your safety. We would be most happy to discuss these matters with you and your parents at any time.

All Scholars must attend a pre-departure orientation session commencing the afternoon of Monday, June 23 in Washington, D.C. Your international flight will depart the afternoon of Friday, June 28 or Saturday, June 29, arriving the afternoon of the following day. You are scheduled to return on July 19 or July 20.

As indicated in the literature accompanying the application form, you are required to provide for your own round-trip air fare and ground transportation to Mount Vernon College, the site of the orientation program in Washington, D.C., and one meal a day during the in-country program. Your return flight should be booked from New York as international flights will return to JFK. Please do not make domestic flight plans until you have received your international itinerary.

Please indicate your acceptance or declination of the Scholar Award in writing to Ms. Alison Richards, Kerr Program Coordinator by April 3. If we have not heard from you by that time, we will award your place in the Program to one of the alternates. We also ask that you contact the chairperson of your Local Nominating Committee to offer your assistance in raising the required \$1250 from your community, eighty percent of which is due May 8, with the remainder required June 22.

Ashland
Oil ←
Mr. Kent Keyser
Office of The Hon. Nick Rahall
815 Fifth Avenue
Huntington WV 25701
304-522-6425

If you do not already have a passport valid through September 1992, you should apply for one immediately. We require your passport to arrive at our offices by May 15. We also need five passport-size photos.

Again, congratulations on your selection.

Sincerely,

John Duke Anthony
John Duke Anthony
President

National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations

March 12, 1992

Mr. Kent Keyser
Office of The Hon. Nick Rahall
343 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Keyser:

On behalf of the National Council, I'd like to inform you and the Huntington Local Nominating Committee that Bryan Manzo has been selected as a Malcolm H. Kerr Scholar for the 1992 Summer Program. The National Selection Committee met on March 6 and selected 30 Scholars for Summer programs in Egypt, Jordan and Syria, and Kuwait.

As a result of your dedication and continued interest, Huntington youth have this unique opportunity for a firsthand international learning experience. Thank you for the time and energy you and the other Committee members have put into the selection process. Enclosed please find a copy of the letter we have sent Bryan Manzo.

Once again, we'd like to enlist your support in assisting the Kerr Scholars in their 20 hours of required community service. In the past six years, Kerr Scholars have been very impressive in their post-trip efforts to share their experience with as many people in their community as possible. As you are aware, the Scholars typically communicate their Arab world experiences through speaking engagements, slide shows, and media interviews.

The 218 Kerr alumni have contributed nearly 4,300 hours of community service. The communications and public presentation skills they develop in the process -- all before they enter college -- result in many of them becoming impressive leaders in international affairs study groups on their campuses.

If you or the other Committee members have any questions about this year's Program, the fundraising requirement, or the shape and direction of this Summer's study tour, please call Ms. Alison Richards, Kerr Program Coordinator.

Alison joins me in sending warm regards.

Sincerely,

John Duke Anthony
John Duke Anthony
President

enclosure

cc: Randy Cheetam

SS 4/1/92
Please do press
on this asap today
JRC

NICK J. RAHALL II
4TH DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN:

MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NATIONAL PARKS AND
PUBLIC LANDSPUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

AVIATION

WATER RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 1992

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R K BUILDING
LOGAN, WV 26001
(304) 762-4834

Mr. Bryan Manzo
P.O. Box 299
Athens, West Virginia 24712

Dear Mr. Manzo:

Congratulations on your selection as a 1992 Malcolm H. Kerr Scholar in Arab and Islamic Studies. The fact that you were chosen to represent West Virginia in this rigorous and highly selective nation-wide program is a testament to your abilities and maturity.

I am pleased that I could again be a part of this excellent opportunity for our young people to expand their knowledge of the world around us. In this decade of the nineties, as the cold war has ended and the international economy become ever more intertwined, it is essential that the young people who will lead our nation into the next century are well-versed in the customs and nuances of other cultures in order to function in an international arena. I believe that this scholarship helps fulfill that need by allowing some of our brightest students to immerse themselves in Middle Eastern society, and such total interaction with a foreign culture is absolutely imperative to gaining a grasp of how it functions.

Bryan, I have the utmost confidence that you will be an impeccable ambassador of West Virginia and the United States to the people of the Middle East, and I hope that you will return to our country ready to share your observations with your peers so that they can learn from your experience.

Again, congratulations on this honor, and do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of any assistance to you in any way.

Have a great trip!

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/jrc