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33rd National Library Legislative Day attracts 400+ library advocates to DC

May 1 and 2, 2007, marked the 33rd Annual National Library Legislative Day events. This year, over 420 participants from 47 states came to Washington, DC, to speak with their Members of Congress about the needs of libraries in the areas of funding, telecommunications, copyright, privacy and government information.

One of the participants was Danny Chapman of Lake Forest, IL -- winner of the National Library Legislative Day 2007 Student Contest, which decided the theme and logo of the annual event -- who visited his legislators with the delegation from the Illinois Library Association. For his winning contest entry, Danny won a free trip to DC.

Danny's entry -- entitled "Check Out the Future" -- helped set the tone for Legislative Day, giving participants a motivating theme to help them spread the word about the importance of the event and of the services that libraries provide. His image of an American flag in the shape of an open library book was used on several promotional items.



Rep. Mark Kirk with Danny Chapman

"With help from young people like Danny, this year's Legislative Day was one of the best yet," said Erin Haggerty, Government Relations Specialist in the ALA Washington Office and coordinator of the annual event. "With so many library advocates on the Hill at one time, not to mention those participating in Virtual Library Legislative Day, we really got our message across to Congress."

The two-day event concluded with a Congressional reception on the evening

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of May 2 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, during which Friends of Libraries U.S.A. presented an award to Sen. Susan Collins (ME) for her work in support of libraries.

Pictures from National Library Legislative Day can be found on the ALA Washington Office's Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/alawash>

National Library Legislative Day 2008 will be on May 13 and 14.

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National Library Legislative Day is sponsored by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the District of Columbia Library Association, the Special Libraries Association and the American Library Association.



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