

Young Fil-Am wins 2015 Congressional District App Challenge

Written by Contributed to the Filipino Reporter
Sunday, 24 April 2016 11:21



Fil-Am Zachary Espiritu (left) and Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen at the #House of Code reception held recently in Washington, D.C.

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Zachary Espiritu, 16, a junior at Regis High School in New York City, is the 2015 winner for the 11th District of New Jersey, in the Annual Congressional District App Challenge, with his application entitled “Math Battle.”

“Math Battle” is a game for iOS where two players go head-to-head and attempt to solve math-based puzzles faster than the other player.

Espiritu created this game with education in mind by motivating players to improve their math and quick thinking skills via friendly competition.

The “Math Battle,” along with other winning apps, will be featured on a digital display in the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., and displayed on the Congressional App Challenge website for the remainder of the year.

Espiritu was invited recently to the #House of Code reception in Washington, D.C. where he met with U.S. Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Rep. for the 11th District of New Jersey, and other dignitaries and student participants, and demonstrated his winning App.

The annual Congressional District App Challenge — open to U.S. high school students — is intended to highlight the value of computer science and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Over 1,700 students from 32 states/187 House Districts across the country participated in the 2015 App Challenge.

New Jersey had five winners: from District 2, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

Espiritu is the son of Robert and Cristina (Resurreccion) Espiritu of East Hanover, N.J., and is

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the grandson of Tony and Patty (Prieto) Espiritu; and Juancho and Rissa (Romulo) Resurreccion.

Aside from his iOS and web development expertise, Espiritu is also a nationally-ranked speaker In Oral Interpretation: 7th Place in Declamation, at the 2015 National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament.