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Barrow Receives National Association of Drug Court Professionals' Congressional Leadership Award

Washington, D.C. – Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) last week received the Congressional Leadership Award by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), the membership and outreach organization representing the 2,300 drug courts across the nation.

Started in 1989 to counter the growing crack problem, drug courts are judicially-supervised court dockets that represent combined efforts of justice and treatment professionals to break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, crime, delinquency, and child maltreatment. Typically lasting for a minimum of one year, drug court participants receive intensive drug treatment and other services they need to change their lives, while also being subjected to random drug testing and progress reports before a judge. Across the country, 75% of drug court graduates remain arrest-free two years after leaving the program.

“I’m honored to be a recipient of this year’s NADCP Congressional Leadership Award,” said Barrow. “Drug courts are fighting on the front lines in America’s war on drugs. In their twenty years, they’ve helped countless former addicts return to work, take care of their families, and become productive members of society. Not only are they saving taxpayer dollars, but they’re making sure folks stay clean and sober.”

Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in drug courts, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in reduced prison costs, reduced trials, and reduced victimization. In addition, drug court reduces methamphetamine use by more than 50% compared to outpatient treatment alone.

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