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Olympian Bremer and brother both selected as regional finalists for White House program

Eli Bremer, a 2008 Olympic qualifier in the sport of modern pentathlon, received some very exciting news this week just prior to departing for a World Cup event in Mexico City, Mexico.

Bremer received the news that he had been selected as a regional finalist for the prestigious White House Fellows Program for 2008-2009.

"It was a pretty good feeling when I saw the White House press release announcing the names of the regional finalists," Bremer said. "They generally get around 1,000 applications and their first cut is to 97 which is a 90 percent cut, so it is pretty significant to make the first cut. The odds are a little more in your favor once you've made the first cut. We're working on scheduling my interviews so that they don't interfere with the World Cup events I am competing in this month. It's a pretty good feeling. There are a lot of things that have gone real well for me this year. I'm really excited about the opportunity and we'll just have to see how it pans out over the next few months."

One of 97 regional finalists, Bremer will now go through a rigorous interview process over

the next two months before the field is cut to approximately 30 National Finalists in May. If selected as a National Finalist, Bremer will then go through another round of interviews with The President's Commission on White House Fellowships in June 2008. The Commission will then recommend candidates to President George W. Bush for a one-year appointment as White House Fellows. The appointment would commence on Sept. 1 and go through Aug. 31, 2009.

Bremer's family has a long history of public service and that service looks to extend into the foreseeable future as Eli's older brother, Max Bremer (Derby, Kan.), was also selected as a regional finalist for the White House Fellows Program. Though it has happened before, it is very rare for siblings to advance this far in the White House Fellows selection process in the same year. If both Bremer brothers are selected as White House Fellows, it would be an even rarer occurrence.

Many Americans know the name of Bremer's uncle, L. Paul Bremer III, who served as the Presidential envoy to Iraq and Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority leading the U.S. reconstruction effort in Iraq from May 2003 through June 2004. Eli and Max's father, Duncan is a well respected local policy-maker and also ran for a seat in the U.S. Congress in 2006. Eli's wife, Cami, served as the campaign manager for her father-in-law's congressional campaign.

Both Bremer brothers already have a history of serving their country through the armed services. Both Eli and Max graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and serve in the United States Air Force. Eli, a member of the U.S. Air Force World Class Athlete Program, transferred from active duty to the Air Force Reserves in September 2007. In seven years of active duty Bremer reached the rank of captain and was primarily stationed at Peterson Air Force Base. Max is an active duty major and KC-135 pilot in the Air Force and is currently stationed in Derby, Kan. Max was a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and went on to graduate with honors from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He also served two years as an Air Force intern at the Pentagon.

Eli has already qualified his spot for the 2008 Olympic

Games in the sport of modern pentathlon based on his gold medal performance at the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. If selected as a White House Fellow, Bremer will have a busy schedule in the month of August 2008. He will represent his country at the 2008 Olympic Games, Aug. 8-24, in Beijing, China, with the men's modern pentathlon competition taking place on Aug. 22. Following the Closing Ceremony on Aug. 24, he would fly back to the U.S., attend a friend's wedding and then possibly begin a year as a White House Fellow in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 1. If all goes according to plan, Eli could help in welcoming his teammates to the White House following the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The White House Fellows Program was founded in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. This non-partisan program offers exceptional men and women first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the federal government. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of round-table discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. Following the fellowship year, fellows are expected to repay the privilege by contributing to the nation as better leaders and public servants.

Selection as a White House Fellow is highly competitive and based on a record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career, evidence of leadership potential, a proven commitment to public service, and the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute successfully at the highest levels of the federal government. Throughout its history, the program has fostered leaders in many fields including Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, United Nations Foundation President and Former U.S. Senator Timothy Wirth, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, U.S. Army General Wesley Clark, U.S. Senator Samuel Brownback, Congressman Joe Barton, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, TV medical correspondent, and Marshall Carter, Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange and a Colorado Springs native.

Please visit www.whitehouse.gov/fellows for the White House press release and for more information on the White House Fellows Program.

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