

more roads to address these challenges, especially in urban areas, we must look at new ways to improve the overall system, to make it safer and more efficient, and to ensure that the system meets future needs.

Fundamental improvements to the entire transportation system depend on high quality surface transportation research. Research can provide the proper tools and information needed to drive solutions. The last time Congress fully examined our Nation's transportation policy was through the debate and passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (better known as TEA-21). While Congress increased funding for overall transportation programs by upwards of 40 percent, funding for transportation research remained relatively flat. I think that lack of investment in research has hurt our ability to meet new challenges. However, simply providing more money for research will not solve our problems. Increased funding must be accompanied by some reforms of the existing research programs.

As Chairman of the House Science Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, which shares jurisdiction over surface transportation research with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I held a hearing earlier this year to hear from experts on the state of the Federal Government's current surface transportation research program. In addition, we heard from a wide array of interests on how to improve and reform the research program, and the levels at which research should be funded. Based on this input, I am proud to introduce the Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2003.

This legislation has three overarching goals: to increase stakeholder input to ensure that the folks who must implement and use the research agree that it is worthwhile and transferable into practice; to create the highest quality research through increased competition and peer-review of all projects; and to ensure greater accountability so that our research supports the goals of our surface transportation system.

More specifically, the bill:

Creates and funds an important research program run by the National Academy of Sciences to address short to medium-term research needs. Research will focus on reducing congestion, renewing existing roads and bridges while minimizing impact to the public, improving safety by reducing crashes, and developing tools for getting more out of our existing highway capacity and assessing future needs. All projects funded by this program will be competitively awarded and peer-reviewed;

Provides needed funds to implement a public-private cooperative environmental research program, with the goal of developing the knowledge, tools, and performance measures that will help us understand the linkage between the environment and the transportation system;

Calls on the U.S. Department of Transportation to take the lead in carrying out fundamental, long-term research to achieve breakthroughs in transportation research;

Increases funding for University Transportation Centers and ensures greater competition among universities which seek to become transportation research centers;

Reforms and increases the responsiveness of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics to

the needs of the transportation community; and

Provides States with additional resources to better train and educate the transportation workforce.

This legislation will significantly, yet prudently, increase funding for transportation research starting at \$500 million a year in fiscal year 2004 for Federal research programs and gradually rising to \$850 million a year by 2009. These funding levels are based on an overall level of \$375 billion for the comprehensive six-year surface transportation reauthorization advocated by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which I support. I believe my approach ensures that our transportation research is well planned, peer-reviewed, properly funded, and evaluated and will go a long way to help solve the many challenges facing our Nation's transportation system.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Science and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees, the U.S. Department of Transportation, State transportation departments, and all other interested stakeholders as this legislation and the overall reauthorization of TEA-21 progress.

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN GARVIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Robin Garvin has dedicated her life in service of the children of the Roaring Fork Valley. It is my honor to pay tribute to her contributions here today.

Robin recently announced her retirement from the Roaring Fork School District's RE-1 Board of Education. Robin was an outstanding member of the Board for eight years and spent the last half of her tenure serving as the Board's President.

Robin approached her position with the best interests of children in mind. Her term was defined by a tireless commitment to providing the students of the Roaring Fork Valley with the best possible education. The Roaring Fork Valley is undoubtedly a better place as the result of Robin's service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring Robin Garvin's contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our nation. Robin has managed to devote herself to bettering the Roaring Fork Valley's system of education while happily acting as a devoted mother, wife and friend. I am proud to join the citizens of the Roaring Fork Valley in thanking Robin for her service.

THANK YOU TO SCARLET TREU

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and personal interest that I rise to commend Mrs. Scarlet Treu of Hacienda Heights, California.

Since my election to Congress in 1999, Scarlet has served as my Senior Advisory for Asian-American issues in my congressional district. Her knowledge and insight into this important constituency has served me well. Unfortunately, after five years of service, she has decided to retire from congressional politics. Not only has she been an excellent employee, but she has also become a close personal friend.

Scarlet's life history is one of inspiration and admiration. Born in Taipei, Taiwan her family was forced to flee from China due to the repressive Communist Regime, Scarlet was able to complete her education at the prestigious Ming Chuang College and earned a degree in business administration. Upon graduation, she went on to serve as the original and founding member of the marketing department for Chase Manhattan Bank's Taipei branch. Immigrating to the United States in 1976, she went to work as an immigration section supervisor and then as a civil litigation specialist for two respected law firms in southern California.

Scarlet met her loving husband, Rolf Treu, in 1977 and they set out to establish two law offices before he was appointed to a State judgeship in 1995. Rolf and Scarlet have two wonderful children, Jacqueline and Eric.

Aside from her many children-related activities, Scarlet has focused on the needs of her community as well. For many years she has been supportive of and actively engaged in the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association Board, LA County Supervisor Don Knabe's Art Award, the Colima-Hacienda Women's Club, the Hacienda Heights Chinese-American Parents Advisory Board, and various Republican Party political appointments. She also formed my Business Advisory Board which has provided me with a forum to work with community leaders on issues important to their industries.

In 2001, Scarlet co-chaired a successful \$221 million bond campaign for Mt. San Antonio College that will benefit future generations of students.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Scarlet for her years of service, hard work and personal sacrifices on my behalf.

IN HONOR OF DONNA TERESA, THE
2003 ANNE RICHARDSON READING
IS FUNDAMENTAL VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Donna Teresa, a compassionate and devoted member of the children's literacy community. In recognition of her activism, Ms. Teresa has been selected by Reading is Fundamental, as the Western representative for the "2003 Anne Richardson Reading is Fundamental Volunteer of the Year." For over six years, Ms. Teresa has worked tirelessly to develop and improve literacy programs at Henry F. Kammann School. In this effort, she has truly embodied the spirit of volunteerism and empathy that is attributed to the distinguished few who receive this award.

In her position as the school librarian, Ms. Teresa has restored the wonder and excitement that reading can provide to our Nation's