

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching Program, administered by the National Science Foundation, is designed to recognize and reward outstanding teachers from elementary and secondary schools. These teachers serve as models for their colleagues in many important areas. At the same time, through such awards, they are able to increase the visibility and rewards of teaching in hopes of encouraging high quality individuals to enter and remain in the educational field.

In addition to the individual recognition that Ms. Hydar, Ms. Kralina, and Ms. Vielhaber receive, the school at which each teaches will be given a \$7,500 grant from the National Science Foundation. These funds are to be used under the direction of the recipients to continue their excellent work in educating our Nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute to these fine teachers, and commend them upon their efforts in ensuring the next generation of quality foundation from where they can pursue their ambitions. I join the National Science Foundation in honoring the excellent work that each of these three teachers has been able to accomplish.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS EMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION ACT OF 1996

HON. HARRY JOHNSTON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers Employment Registration Act of 1996. This bill will establish a national clearinghouse to assist in background checks on applicants for law enforcement jobs. The bill is a companion to S. 484, introduced by my colleague in the other body, Senator BOB GRAHAM.

This legislation will establish a national data bank providing quick and accurate information regarding an officer's prior employment history. Maintained by the Department of Justice, it will be accessible to law enforcement agencies to assist in background checks of those seeking employment.

The intent of this legislation is to help prevent what have been commonly known as "Rogue Cops". These are police officers who have been dismissed or have been forced to resign from previous positions but conceal their employment history in job applications. Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner James T. Moore said, "Experience has shown that, after being found guilty of misconduct, many problem officers resign or are fired, only to seek police jobs elsewhere."

The clearinghouse will simply be a pointer file, maintaining basic information on all certified officers, including name, date of birth, Social Security number, and dates of employment. To protect the rights of officers, it would not contain information relating to causes of dismissal. The potential employer would still hold primary responsibility for conducting a thorough background check, but this measure will mean officers could no longer conceal their prior employment history simply by moving from one State to another.

The 1990 beating death of Bobby Jewett in West Palm Beach is a devastating example of the consequences of concealed records. Once the employment histories of the two officers involved in the death were uncovered, it was revealed that they had gone through four States and eight different law enforcement agencies. Much of this had been left out of their job applications.

This legislation has the support of both national law enforcement organizations and local authorities. Few agencies have the personnel and resources to conduct thorough background checks on police applications. A nationwide data base is needed.

TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER OF WILLIAM THOMAS HART

HON. SAM GIBBONS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Dedication. Integrity. Professionalism. Wisdom. Humility.

These are attributes that we hold in high esteem and seek in those who lead us. It is reassuring to recognize some of these attributes in individuals; it is remarkable when we can recognize all of them in a single individual. I would like to take a few moments to tell you about William Thomas Hart, one such individual.

This month marks the second anniversary of the signing of this century's most comprehensive multilateral trade agreements, the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT]. It also marks the first April since 1949 that the U.S. Government will not be able to call upon the expertise of William Thomas Hart.

For over 53 years Mr. Hart has served this country, first as a young naval officer in World War II, then as an outstanding civil servant. In July 1948, Mr. Hart joined the staff of the U.S. Tariff Commission, now the U.S. International Trade Commission, beginning a distinguished career of public service in the trade field that would span almost 50 years before his retirement in February 1996.

Mr. Hart specialize in the somewhat arcane but critically important area of tariff negotiations. He most recently served as the U.S. International Trade Commission's [ITC] Director of the Office of Executive and International Liaison, responsible for planning and directing the ITC's activities in support of U.S. trade agreement negotiations and implementation. During his years of service he advised U.S. trade negotiations in all of the principal rounds of multilateral negotiations conducted under the GATT. He was also a key adviser in the negotiation of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement, the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, and the North American Free Trade Agreement. His wise counsel and encyclopedic knowledge of events, both large and small, in the field of international trade have been sought out by innumerable government officials and business executives both here and abroad.

Not only did Mr. Hart provide invaluable advice during the course of negotiations, but when the trade negotiators' work concluded, Mr. Hart's most lasting contributions began.

For example, after the hundreds of trade negotiators gathered in Geneva for the signing of the Uruguay round agreements had congratulated themselves on their success and returned to their capitals, Mr. Hart and a small number of his colleagues turned to the critical task of translating the political results of the negotiations into tangible benefits for U.S. businesses, workers, and consumers. Mr. Hart was personally responsible for the production, under very stringent deadlines, of almost 2,500 pages of documentation necessary to record our international tariff commitments and update our tariff schedules. Mr. Hart meticulously checked and cross-checked every line of information in these documents to ensure the United States commitments were accurately represented and new tariff rates properly calculated. This is but one example of the dedication and professionalism that Mr. Hart exhibited throughout his long career.

Mr. Hart's contributions and the critical support he provided to the agencies responsible for U.S. trade policy have been recognized by the President's trade representatives from Christian Herter, the first Special Trade Representative, to Mickey Kantor. The ITC also recognized the exceptional talents and dedicated public service of Mr. Hart by twice awarding him that agency's highest honor, The Commissioners' Award for Exceptional Service.

Mr. Hart's service to his country and to his fellow citizens deserves our recognition and our praise. Bill, congratulations on your retirement. You did your job well, and you did it with care and pride and warmth. Your sense of honor, as well as your vast historical knowledge of trade negotiations, will be greatly missed. Your career serves as a fine example for your colleagues and for the generations of Government employees who will follow in your path.

A GOOD MAN

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the American chorus of praise for Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and to join my colleagues in expressing our profound sorrow at the loss of his life in the plane crash in Croatia. And I also take this time to let the Nation know that a constituent of mine, Air Force Staff Sgt. Gerald V. Aldrich, of Louisville, IL, was a member of the crew and also perished in that terrible crash.

Because of that, the 19th district of Illinois was touched as much as any other in the Nation by the news from that rugged mountainside in a nation torn apart by civil war and cultural strife.

Unexplainable tragedies inevitably take with them outstanding people who are a credit to their families, friends, and communities. Certainly that is true with Sergeant Aldrich and Secretary Brown.

I have talked with the Aldrich family at length, and know that they are extraordinarily proud of their fine son. He entered the military shortly after graduating from high school and fashioned a career that was clearly taking him to leadership positions in the Air Force. On

behalf of everyone in the 19th district, I send my deepest sympathies to his entire family.

As I comprehended Secretary Brown's death, I knew that most people would remember him for his efforts in the Democratic Party and for his global approach to supporting American economic interests. And while he must certainly be commended for those things, I knew that I would remember him much more for two very simple, relatively small projects which were extremely important to me and the people in my district. There are two major construction projects underway in my district right now because the communities made their case to the Commerce Department, and Secretary Brown made sure their needs were addressed. He was personally interested in how these projects would create jobs and improve the lives of working people, and I will always be thankful for that.

Mr. Speaker, two fine Americans were taken from us on that mountain in Croatia. I thank the Aldrich and Brown families for sharing their precious gifts with us for as long as they did, and commend their careers of public service to the rest of us to emulate and admire.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to salute a group of outstanding young women from my district who have been honored with the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Gold Award by the Kickapoo Council of Girl Scouts in Peoria, IL. The seven girls who received this award are the following: Jennifer Baker of Troop 47; Jennifer Grafelman of Troop 22; Nora Hegwood of Troop 1000; Aria Hoekstra of Troop 581; Lee Ann Kroppel of Troop 22; Jordan Maricle of Troop 144; and Jennifer Roth of Troop 345.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement award in Girl Scouting. It symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls aged 14-17 or in grades 9-12.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 3.3 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches; earn the Career Exploration Pin; earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award; earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge; and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

Jennifer Baker began working on the Girl Scout Gold Award in early 1994. Her project was completed by making presentations to high school students regarding the importance of making and keeping family values a priority in their life. She worked on this with the guidance and supervision of the Fulton County Health and Child Services Department.

Jennifer Grafelman began working on her Girl Scout Gold Award requirements in 1994. She completed her project by presenting a Children's Safety Awareness With Strangers Program for a local elementary school, grades K-3. This program not only gave valuable information to the students, but also provided parents with a photo of their child, fingerprints and video tapes of the children. The local school board was very supportive of this project.

Nora Hegwood started work on the Girl Scout Gold Award in 1993. Her project involved working with an Early Childhood Education Center to assess the abilities of children who do not have minimal playing skills and then to work with each of them in play therapy/play intervention to improve their level of play with other children. This involved an average of 2-hour-long play sessions several times over a 3-month period.

Aria Hoekstra began work on the Gold Award in 1993. She completed her project by making and gathering toys, games, and books and making a toy box for these items, then donating them to the children's ward of a local hospital. In addition, she visited the hospital on several occasions and read, played games, and became friends to the children.

Lee Ann Kroppel started her work on the Girl Scout Gold Award in 1994. She completed her project by presenting a Children's Safety Awareness With Strangers program for a local elementary school, grades K-3. Working with the local school board, she provided valuable information to students and parents, including a photo and video tape of the child, as well as fingerprints.

Jordan Maricle initiated work on her Gold Award in 1994. Her project was completed by teaching French in an elementary school where there are no classes in French. The school has cooperated in allowing this to be done with interested children. This project helps expand the horizons of children to another culture different from their own.

Jennifer Roth began work on the Gold Award in 1994. She completed her project by cleaning, recording, and setting up a database for all of the band trophies and awards in her high school. They have received over 450 honors. This project will be one that can continue and will be of historical value to the school.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for all of these young women, and I believe they should all receive the public recognition due to them for their significant service to the community and to the country.

SALUTE TO THE UPPER MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated in 1946 as a result of a major fire in the area. Before that

time, the closest firefighting and emergency medical help had to respond from a distance of 18 miles. The department has grown to serve 80 square miles and currently covers almost one-fifth of the county.

The department is comprised of 80 members, with active volunteers and career firefighters making up one-half of the membership. For 50 years, these dedicated members have willingly placed themselves in great danger so as to make the community safer for others. In volunteering to undertake the risks inherent in firefighting, they have shown a rare dedication to helping others.

From the auxiliary to the board of directors to the firefighters themselves, the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department's members are committed to keeping the community safe and fire-free. I would like to call special attention to George T. Hillard, who has served as the elected volunteer chief for every year but one since 1958, and the five charter members who are still with us: Charles Elgin, Sr., Charles Staub, A. Leland Clark, Benoni Allnut, and R. Edwin Brown. I would also like to recognize George Reid for the many years of comfort he has provided as the chaplain for the department.

I am certain my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Upper Montgomery County Fire Department on 50 years of dedicated service, and wish them equal success in the many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MADGELEAN BUSH

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special friend and community leader from Houston. Ms. Madgelean Bush will be honored this Friday as the 1996 recipient of the Joint Action in Community Service, Inc.'s [JACS] National Volunteer of the Year Award.

Ms. Bush has been a JACS volunteer coordinator for 10 years and serves as the executive director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Center's halfway house in Houston. A natural leader and administrator, she supervises a staff of 45 and manages two and a half million dollars in city, county, State, and Federal funds. Among other services, she and her staff and volunteers have assisted more than 2,400 Job Corps students in their transition from Job Corps training to community re-adjustment and the world of work.

Ms. Bush was selected for this year's honor from a group of 10 individuals nominated as outstanding regional volunteers.

JACS Southwest Regional Director Deloris Kenerson, who nominated Ms. Bush, described her as "a dedicated, humble, yet dynamic advocate for the Job Corps program." Ms. Kenerson added, "Harris County has more students returning home from Job Corps than any other county in the Southwest region. The assistance Ms. Bush provides helps promote self-sufficiency and self-worth among the young people returning to the Houston area from Job Corps training."

Ms. Kenerson attributes much of Ms. Bush's success to the fact that she refuses to accept that what is right is not always possible. If