

Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

CRYSTAL BELL AWARD
RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven exceptional teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized as outstanding educators by their peers for the 2007–2008 school year. These individuals are: Sheri L. Doffin, Tracy Kohler, Kathleen R. Krum, Karen A. Semancik, Nancy J. Smith, Thomas R. Sufana, and Vicki Weber. For their outstanding efforts, these honorees will be presented with the Crystal Bell Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This prestigious event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana, on Wednesday, May 7, 2008.

Sheri Doffin, a first grade teacher at Lake Village Elementary School, has been in the teaching profession for an astonishing 31 years, 30 of which have been with the North Newton School Corporation. Throughout her tenure, Sheri has always made a point of bringing innovative ideas to her classroom to make sure her students remain interested and actively involved in their studies. Involved in many committees and programs at Lake Village, including the PTO and PL221 team, which is geared toward the improvement of the school, Sheri's dedication is matched only by her constant concern for her students.

Tracy Kohler, from the Crown Point School Corporation, has been a role model and a true inspiration to her students since arriving in Northwest Indiana in 2004. Currently an eighth grade honors algebra and pre-algebra teacher at Colonel John Wheeler Middle School, Tracy is well known for her creativity in the classroom, regularly bringing real-life situations into her lessons. Also recognized for her skills with teaching struggling learners, Tracy was selected to teach a pilot program aimed at improving math scores on the ISTEP exam. Tracy has also shown her unwavering commitment to her students through her service as the sponsor of the Academic Bowl Team and as a volunteer at athletic and after-school events.

Kathleen Krum, this year's recipient from the Hanover Community School Corporation, has been a teacher for an astounding 38 years. A fourth and fifth grade teacher at Hanover, Kathy has received many awards and honors throughout her lifetime of service. Involved in numerous extracurricular activities and special programs with her fourth graders, Kathy has always taught with the goal of making learning fun. With this goal in mind, one of Kathy's greatest sources of pride was the construction of an outdoor learning lab at Lincoln Elementary School, which has helped many young students gain first-hand experience with nature.

Karen Semancik, this year's recipient from the Lake Central School Corporation, has had an outstanding teaching career, which has

spanned 29 years. Karen is currently a fifth grade social studies teacher at Clark Middle School, where she is widely known for the unique and interesting activities she brings to her classroom. One example of such an activity is that she provided her students with the opportunity to contact the International Space Station. Additionally, Karen's peers and students have always been impressed with her patience and her ability to adapt her lessons to the individual needs of her students.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the School Town of Munster is Nancy Smith. Nancy, of Wilbur Wright Middle School, has been a seventh grade language arts teacher in Munster for the past 35 years. The passion Nancy has for teaching and for her students goes far beyond the classroom. Through her efforts on the Broad Based Planning Committee, the language arts gifted and talented program has made great strides, allowing these exceptional students the opportunity to enhance their student careers. Furthermore, Nancy has been a true role model to teachers new to the classroom, allowing them to learn from her vast experience and to share her passion for educating young people.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the Tri-Creek School Corporation is Thomas R. Sufana. Tom has been nurturing young minds for an astonishing 32 years and currently serves as the art teacher at Lowell Senior High School. In addition, Tom has served as the Assistant Drama Director for the past 14 years. Throughout his illustrious career, Tom has not only received recognition as a great teacher, but his work has been seen in many public events, both locally and nationally. Because of his love for art, Tom is responsible for bringing many beautiful pieces to Northwest Indiana, many of which are proudly displayed in the halls of Lowell High School today.

Vicki Weber, this year's recipient from the School Town of Highland, is known for her ability to challenge her students in a way few other teachers can. Vicki, currently a third grade teacher at Warren Elementary School, also serves in many other capacities, including: Spellbowl coach, intramural volleyball coach, mentor, mentor faculty facilitator, and as a member of the building school improvement plan steering committee. A testament to Vicki's ability to connect with her students, she has coached two Spellbowl teams that have advanced to higher level competitions.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2008 Crystal Bell Award. Their years of hard work have played a major role in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people, and each recipient is truly an inspiration to us all.

SAFE AND COMPLETE STREETS
ACT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008.

This needed legislation is based on the principle that our Nation's transportation system

should be safe and accessible to all people. Motorists, bicyclists, transit users, pedestrians, the disabled, and the elderly all use our country's transportation network each and every day. The Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 will ensure that the needs of all of these users are accommodated during the transportation planning process.

Complete streets are an essential part of well-designed communities that are livable for children, families, the elderly, and people of all ages and abilities. By providing our constituents with sidewalks on which to walk, well-lit transit stations in which to wait for the bus or light rail, clear lanes in which to drive, and bike lanes in which to ride, we can encourage them to utilize alternative modes of transportation. This can make our transportation system most effective and useful.

Madam Speaker, our constituents are struggling to deal with the skyrocketing cost of gas. As their pocketbooks are hit increasingly hard at the pump, many Americans are turning to alternative methods of transportation. In my hometown of Sacramento, where gasoline is nearly four dollars per gallon, my local newspaper recently reported on the growing number of my constituents who are riding their bicycles to work because of the prohibitive price of filling a car up with fuel.

For these reasons, Americans around the country are eager for transportation alternatives. The Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 is a strong step toward a future where travelers are presented with a range of transportation options. By requiring States and metropolitan planning organizations to accommodate the needs of all users of the transportation system in their planning processes, this legislation will broaden access to the streets that tie our communities—and our Nation—together.

Incorporating these kinds of complete streets principles will help us move away from the kinds of transportation planning that causes seniors to avoid walking to the store because of the lack of sidewalks. It will help usher in a day when commuters feel safe riding to work on their bicycles because the streets now accommodate bikes. It will ease the fears of parents across our country who hesitate to allow their children to walk to school because of the danger posed by so many cars driving near sidewalks. It will reduce the risk posed to disabled Americans who are forced to deal with a transportation system short on painted crosswalks and audible walking signals. And it will encourage people to take public transit because they will no longer have to wait for the bus at a stop that is nothing more than a pole in the ground.

Complete streets also have a number of non-transportation-related benefits. In a country where nearly one-third of adults are obese and the number of overweight children has tripled since 1980, giving people options to walk or take public transit can play a major role in reducing these disturbing trends. In terms of fighting global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends as a key climate change mitigation strategy the shifting of travel modes from driving to walking, taking transit, and bicycling. There is ample room for complete streets to help bring about this needed paradigm shift in the way we travel—65 percent of trips in the United States under one mile are now made by automobile. In one Colorado city, local efforts to

take transit, use bicycles, and carpool have helped reduce carbon dioxide by half a million pounds. If one city can achieve such success in reducing emissions by changing transportation patterns, the possible emissions reductions through implementing a nationwide complete streets policy are staggering.

Madam Speaker, we live in a time when local governments are strapped for cash. In such a fiscal climate, we should make investments today that will pay out over the long term, and that will help us avoid the need to make costly adjustments to our current transportation system down the line. Incorporating complete streets principles today will help communities save precious dollars in the future by eliminating the need for costly retrofits.

I know this to be true because of the experience of my own congressional district, where the City of Sacramento is preparing to spend \$12 million to update a bridge that was built in the 1930s without adequate sidewalks. Another example of the power of complete streets to save money is from Illinois. There, the legislature passed a complete streets law last year after the state was forced to spend nearly a million dollars adding a foot and bike path to a bridge where several pedestrians and bicyclists were hit and killed by motorists.

But the bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that the Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 is good policy because of what it can help us do for our communities, not for the costs it can help us avoid. Encouraging people to use all the various modes of transportation available to them will strengthen public health, reduce congestion, improve air quality, and increase the interconnectedness of our communities. It will help create a national transportation network that works for all Americans regardless of their age, income, or preferred mode of getting around town.

The time has come for this Congress to start thinking about what we want the legacy of American transportation to be. I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that we want this to be one where all users of our streets feel safe and accommodated. The Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 is a first step toward creating this kind of practical, efficient, and inclusive transportation system, and I am proud to introduce it here today.

HONORING DEBORAH MURDOCK

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time education advocate and friend, Deborah Murdock. As Special Assistant to the President at Portland State University, Debbie helped make PSU the top-tier university in Oregon that it currently is. We lost our friend Debbie on August 14, 2007, far too soon. I honor her today because on Sunday, May 4, 2008, Portland State University will dedicate the Debbie Murdock Memorial Clock Tower on their campus.

My first day in Washington, DC, as a new Member of Congress, Debbie was a friendly face who knew more about working in Congress than I did. Her experience with Congressman Les AuCoin was a great benefit for both of us. She knew what I needed to do to

successfully represent my constituents and specifically a certain university in the state's urban hub.

Debbie came to work for PSU in 1993 and almost immediately set goals for the university that may have seemed overly-optimistic and unattainable. She wanted to help the university provide the programs, research and student experience that the other Oregon institutions of higher learning were offering.

During her tenure, Debbie played a significant role in the building and establishment of the Native American Center, the Urban Center, the engineering building and others. She also was involved in the downtown revitalization and "greening" of the campus.

But Debbie's list of accomplishments doesn't end with facilities and structures. Debbie managed to affect almost every person she came into contact with by encouraging their professional or academic development and personal growth. She wanted everyone to be the best they could be and felt like she could help make that happen by being a friend, a mentor or a resource.

I am delighted that Portland State University is naming the new clock tower in honor of Debbie. The tower will be a part of PSU's vitality, energy and life for years to come, as will Debbie Murdock's memory.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR H. MARTIN LANCASTER'S SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedicated service of our former colleague, Martin Lancaster, to North Carolina and the Nation.

Martin retires today as President of the North Carolina Community College System, which he has led since 1997. The system enrolls more than 800,000 students in 58 comprehensive community colleges across the State. Internationally recognized for the scope and quality of its programs, the system is one of the largest in the country and North Carolina's primary provider of workforce preparation and adult education.

Martin has worked to increase State and private funding for facilities, equipment, faculty salaries, and instruction and to strengthen the system's essential role in workforce and economic development. He led community college participation in the successful State Higher Education Bond Referendum of 2000, which included \$600 million for community college construction, repair and renovation. He has worked successfully with successive presidents of the University of North Carolina system to ensure a seamless transition for students between community colleges and 4-year state institutions.

In his years as president, Martin and I have collaborated on a number of projects. We've worked hard on the Partnership Fellows Program to help address the serious teacher shortage by providing scholarships for individuals transitioning from associate degree programs in education to bachelor-degree granting institutions. He's helped ensure that future

Federal scholarships for prospective teachers will be available to community college students.

We also continue to promote funding from the National Science Foundation for the Advanced Technological Education, ATE, program to underwrite innovation and excellence in curriculum development, teaching methods, and public-private partnerships. The North Carolina system and individual campuses compete very successfully for this support.

Most recently, we have secured Department of Education funding for an innovative partnership among the North Carolina Symphony, the community college system, and local public school systems. Soloists and small ensembles from the Symphony will visit far-flung communities and, based in their community colleges, offer performances and classes for aspiring young musicians.

Prior to his work with the North Carolina Community College System, Martin served as assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works from January 1996 until June 1997. Before that, he served as special advisor to President Bill Clinton on chemical weapons. Many Members of this body will remember his 8 years of distinguished service, representing his home town of Goldsboro and the rest of the Third Congressional District.

With the experience of being on active duty in the Navy during the Vietnam war and continuing to serve as an active Reservist until his retirement as a Navy Captain in November 1993, Martin was an effective member of the Armed Services Committee. During his tenure, he fought to obtain benefits increases for disabled veterans and sponsored Agent Orange compensation measures. He also took a special interest in procurement and other small business issues as a member of the Small Business Committee.

Our friendship stretches across decades, including our years in the House, which we began together in the Class of 1986. Martin's commitment and leadership in his law practice, the North Carolina General Assembly, the U.S. Congress, on many boards and commissions, and especially in our community colleges, have improved the quality of life for people of all ages. We have known each other long enough to watch our grandchildren's generation benefit from his talent and dedication.

It is with the greatest respect and my deepest appreciation that I rise today to honor Martin Lancaster and thank him for his many invaluable contributions to our State and Nation. On behalf of all who have also been fortunate to work with him, I wish him, his wife Alice, and their two daughters, Mary Martin and Ashley Elizabeth and their growing families, the best in all of their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BRIAN PERRY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor a member of my staff, Brian Perry, as he leaves to join Mississippians for Economic Progress as executive director. Brian has served as my communications director for the past 5 years and has done an outstanding job handling the press inquiries my office has received from the national, State, and local level. He has served in