

untreated. There has got to be a better treatment out there, if not an outright cure, we just have to find it."

I'd like to share the thoughts of a father whose toddler son suffers from Hydrocephalus, Michael Illions: "Our son Cole was born on July 25, 2005. We were prepared for his diagnosis of hydrocephalus since March of that year when we learned about it at a routine ultrasound. We interviewed Neurosurgeons and discussed our options for the treatment of the hydrocephalus for Cole which in his case would mean brain surgery at 1 day old. The most common treatment for hydrocephalus is the placement of a shunt into the ventricles of the brain to drain excess Cerebral Spinal Fluid. Cole had his first shunt surgery on July 26, 2005 at just one day old. 10 more brain surgeries and hospitalizations would follow in the next year, including 2 major shunt infections.

Life with a child living with hydrocephalus is very unpredictable. We have had to alter our lives in many ways. For the first year, we literally slept with a change of clothes right near the bed and the car keys on the night stand, just in case we had to make a late night visit to the ER. As parents, you are constantly observing your child for shunt failure and things that regular parents go through like stomach viruses and fevers could mean death for your child if not acted on immediately. We never travel to far from home for fear that we will need our hospital and Neurosurgeon in an emergency and when we do venture away, we always know where the closest hospital is.

Cole has experienced development delays due to his hydrocephalus, multiple surgeries and so much time spent in the hospital during his first year of life. He didn't walk till he was nearly 3 years old and he still doesn't talk. However, he started Preschool in September and is doing amazingly well. He runs, plays, laughs, and plays with other children just like any other 3 1/2 year old boy. Yet, as common as hydrocephalus is; 1 in 500 births, there are still so many people who have no idea what it is. The experience of having a child with this condition has enriched our lives beyond measure. We have met hundred of wonderful people, started our own support group in our state, and just recently started the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation, Inc. It is our goal to educate the rest of the United States about this condition and the millions of people living with it."

#### PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the reauthorization of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program sends an important signal about the effectiveness of hazard mitigation in ensuring public safety and reducing financial losses in the event of a natural disaster. I am pleased that the House is reauthorizing the program for an additional three years and increasing the minimum amount that each State can receive from \$500,000 to \$575,000.

I have been a longtime supporter of pre-disaster mitigation and the approach adopted in

the 1990's by former FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt as illustrated in the 'Project Impact' pilot program. The City of Portland, Oregon and Multnomah County, areas I represent, were early partners in the Project Impact program which helped to establish a flood hazard Community Rating System. By taking steps to mitigate potential flood damages in excess of FEMA standards, some area floodplain residents were able to qualify for reductions in their flood insurance premiums. On a national scale, Project Impact helped communities large and small across the country make much needed investments in hazard mitigation.

In 2005, the Multihazard Mitigation Council, on behalf of FEMA, found that on average, a dollar spent by FEMA on hazard mitigation provides the nation in about \$4 in future benefits. In that regard, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program is a leading example of how the federal government can be a better partner to local communities by helping to improve public safety and reduce disaster related financial losses. It is the right thing to do for communities that are rebuilding after disasters, like New Orleans, and for those trying to avoid becoming the next victims.

#### HONORING SERGEANT GLEN RUEGSEGGER, INDIANAPOLIS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Glen Ruegsegger for being named Police Officer of the Year by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. Earlier this month, he was honored as one of Indianapolis' finest officers in 2008 for the tremendous contributions he has made to his department.

Under the leadership of Sergeant Ruegsegger, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department has been able to advance the use of technology so that law enforcement officers are better equipped with information while they are patrolling the streets. By utilizing his expertise as the director of the police technology department, Sergeant Ruegsegger has led the effort in developing a mechanism of sharing case information with other departments. The goal is to allow for effective and timely communication among law enforcement officers so that they can fulfill their duty to protect citizens.

As a former law enforcement officer, I understand the importance of utilizing innovative systems that will have a positive impact on the lives of Indianapolis residents. I applaud Sergeant Ruegsegger on this significant achievement and wish him the best in his continued service to our city.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Sergeant Ruegsegger for his exceptional service and congratulate him on this distinguished award.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
MARK BRAKE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Mark Brake of Ohio City, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Mark's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Mark brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Lincolnview High School in Van Wert, Ohio, Mark attained a grade point average which placed him in the top third of his class. During Mark's high school career, he earned several Scholar Athlete Awards and tutored other students. He was active in Spanish Club, Science Club, and Marching Band, serving as field commander his senior year.

Outside the classroom, Mark demonstrated his dedication and service to his community and peers by being active in many church activities and excelled on the violin. He was also a representative at Buckeye Boys State. On the fields of competition, Mark was a varsity wrestler and participated in track and field events. I am confident that Mark will carry the lessons of his student leadership to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mark Brake on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Mark will excel during his career at the Military Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

#### HONORING AMELIA LEUER FOR RECEIVING NATIONAL LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE AWARD

#### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Amelia Leuer of Albertville, Minnesota, for being chosen as a national winner in the Letters about Literature Reading Contest.

Miss Leuer, a senior at St. Michael-Albertville High School, was chosen as one of six winners in a national competition with 55,000 students for her letter to poet Linda Paston. After studying the piece, "Caroline,"

Miss Leuer chose to write a letter to the author expressing the positive impact the poem provided as she dealt with the tragedy of losing her sister in an accident.

"I personally attribute a great deal of that peace to your poem, 'Caroline,'" Miss Leuer wrote. "I realize we can endure this pain only because of small miracles we experience every day. 'Caroline' is one of those miracles."

The panel of judges gave Miss Leuer a perfect score for her "original, emotional, genuine, and inspiring response," and Target donated a \$10,000 grant to St. Michael Catholic Library on her behalf.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Sixth District of Minnesota, I want to congratulate Amelia Leuer for her talent and national achievement. I wish her the very best as she graduates high school and pursues what are sure to be bright endeavors in her future.

#### TRIBUTE TO WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

### HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I am humbled today to recognize my fellow Oregonians killed on the job or at war in 2008. This nation has made great strides in protecting Americans from all walks of life in all different types of jobs, but any death, or injury, resulting from an on-the-job accident or injury is one too many.

So as we recognize these men and women on this Workers Memorial Day, let us also pledge to do better to provide safe and productive work environments for our nation's workers. Let us remember the ultimate sacrifice of these men and women and honor their legacies.

William Adams, Cecil Alberts, Joshua Amos, Eugene Ardisson, Jeffrey Baker, Robert Betz, Shawn Blazer, Kerry Boatman, Lance Corporal Dustin Canham, Scott Charleson, Randy Chipman, Edward Clarke, Mike Dennison, Captain Bruno de Solenni, Michael Dewey, and Coner Duty.

Private First Class Cody Eggleston, Corporal Jessica Ellis, James Exline, Jene Fitzgerald, Robert Ford, James French, Edrik Gomez, Nathan Gourley, William Hakim, Matthew Hammer, Thomas Holliday, Kevin Ivey, Lance Corporal Robert Johnson, Christopher Judah, and Stephen Kaufman.

Jason Ketcheson, Matthew Kohanes, Robert Kramer, Roger Kruizenga, Kevin Leader, Timothy Leake, Kelly Linhart, Jeffrey Little, Miguel Martinez-Perez, Sergeant Zachary McBride, David McKay, John Miller, Sergeant Mikeal Miller, Joseph Montero, and Joshua Moughler.

Private Tan Ngo, Mark Phares, Dale Pickett, Paul Reiter, Steven Renno, Bryan Rich, Robert Rolph, Jesse Savage, Roark Schwanenberg, George Shaw, Aaron Simmons, Terry Smith, Gurdev Sohi, Darrell Souza, and David Steele.

Gerald Stierwalt, Brian Swenson, Thomas Tennant, Hector Terriquez-Chavez, Chad Thompson, Frank Toohey, Sergeant James Treber, Tommy Walker, Lieutenant Colonel James Wiley, William Woodruff, John Wor-

thington; and Private First Class Joshua Young.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE INITIATING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REFORM ACT OF 2009

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009. This legislation is an important first step in reforming and improving the U.S. foreign assistance program, particularly with respect to developing countries. I call it a first step, because I intend to work with my House and Senate colleagues later this year on a broader reform effort that will include a comprehensive rewrite of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

There is broad consensus that the U.S. foreign assistance program is in need of a significant overhaul. Currently, foreign assistance programs are fragmented across 12 departments, 25 different agencies, and nearly 60 government offices. The current foreign assistance structure is characterized by duplication, fragmentation, and conflicting purposes and objectives. As a result, the United States lacks a clear and consistent strategy toward developing countries. Last week, the Government Accountability Office issued a report detailing the urgent need for developing such a strategy.

Over the years, there have also been criticisms about the accountability, effectiveness, and transparency of U.S. foreign assistance. While some of these criticisms have merit, in the vast majority of cases our assistance is being used to help lift people out of poverty, combat food insecurity, and promote stability and good governance all over the world. Yet without an effective and transparent system that tracks our assistance, it is difficult to document our successes.

In order to begin addressing these issues, this bill requires the President to develop and implement a comprehensive National Strategy for Global Development, which will define and streamline the roles of each department and agency engaged in development policies, programs and activities overseas. In addition, the strategy will establish a process to review and improve coordination among the various departments and agencies involved. The strategy will also establish objectives for our development programs, with the goal of reducing poverty and contributing to broad-based economic growth in developing countries. Most importantly, it will spell out the connection between reducing poverty in the developing world and advancing U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.

To improve the accountability and transparency of foreign aid, the legislation requires each U.S. department and agency carrying out foreign assistance to develop a system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of assistance programs. It also requires the President to publish and make pub-

licly available comprehensive information on U.S. foreign assistance on a program-by-program and country-by-country basis. Upon enactment of this legislation, every American and all recipients of U.S. foreign aid will be able to see where and how U.S. foreign assistance is being used.

Madam Speaker, overhauling our foreign assistance apparatus is critical to safeguarding America's long-term national security, confronting transnational threats, stimulating global economic growth and ensuring that U.S. foreign assistance reflects the values and priorities of the American people. This legislation is a critical first step in achieving these objectives, and I look forward to working with my House and Senate colleagues and the Obama Administration on the broader U.S. foreign assistance reform effort.

#### IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ALLISON REEDY ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Allison Reedy of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Allison's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Allison brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Allison attained a grade point average which placed her in the top ten percent of her class. Allison participated in Tiffin Columbian High School's marching, concert, and symphonic bands; she was a member of the Quiz Bowl, and was active in TC Crew. Allison was also inducted into the National Honor Society.

Outside the classroom, Allison was a member of the cheerleading and swim teams. Allison utilized her leadership skills as President of the Spanish Club and leader of the Band Dance Committee. I am confident that Allison will carry the lessons of her student leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Allison Reedy on her acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Allison will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.