

Albertville, Minnesota, for being chosen as a national winner in the Letters about Literature Reading Contest.

Miss Lever, 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 Lever 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 Lever 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 Lever 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 Lever 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.

CELEBRATING ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Abington Township, a community in my district that has been recognized with three distinct national honors. Abington Township is a three-time winner of America's Promise "100 Best Communities for Young People" in the United States, and in fact, the township is the only three-time winner in Pennsylvania. Money Magazine named Abington Township as one of the "100 Best Places to Live in America" and most recently, US News & World Report awarded Abington Senior High School a bronze medal as one of America's best high schools.

I have had the privilege of representing Abington in the Pennsylvania State Senate and now as a member of Congress. I am also proud to be an Abington resident. Over the years, I have seen first-hand Abington's demonstrated commitment to building a strong community dedicated to the advancement of the lives of its young people.

Abington Township's "Triple Crown Awards" are the result of a concerted collaborative effort among the school district, police department, community organizations, businesses, and residents who have worked tirelessly to create a responsible, caring, and safe community. They've established the Abington Community Taskforce, comprised of parents, police, religious and civic leaders and over thirty civic groups, dedicated to the mission of teaching tolerance, promoting neighborhood safety, and building strong families.

The Abington Police Department has established strong community partnerships with innovative programs like D.A.R.E., the Police Athletic League, Citizens and Police Together, Kids in Safety Seats, and Town Watch. Abing-

ton Township adopted the state-sponsored Communities That Care Initiative to advance their collaborative efforts based on an annual needs assessment to best direct their long-term community building initiatives. They've established joint initiatives between the school district and police department, including an anti-drug program and the Community Partnership of Youth and Adults to encourage community spirit and participation.

Abington Township is the recipient of repeated national recognition because, as a community, the people of Abington represent values that are at the very core of the American spirit—duty, respect, selfless service, honor, and integrity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the incredible accomplishments of Abington Township and wishing the residents of the township success in their endeavors to better their community. Abington Township sets an example for all of us to follow. I couldn't be prouder of Abington for its outstanding efforts.

HONORING DARRELL WAYNE VANZANDT II

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Darrell Wayne VanZandt II a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Darrell has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Darrell has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Darrell Wayne VanZandt II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAYOR NORM GRIMSLEY

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norm Grimsley for his twenty-seven years of service as Mayor of Aroma Park and dedication to his family.

Under Mayor Grimsley's tenure, the Village of Aroma Park added a sewer system, which has greatly improved the quality of life of village residents. He worked to encourage the growth of new businesses, which brought Aroma Park thousands of dollars in additional revenue each year. Mayor Grimsley showed strong leadership on transportation issues, as evident in Aroma Park's early support and participation in the River Valley Metro Bus System.

Mayor Grimsley has enjoyed a forty-five year marriage to his wife Pam. He raised two successful children: Mike, a health manager and Carrie Grimsley-Jones, a professor of anatomy and physiology. He also has four grandchildren.

Mayor Grimsley has performed decades of superb service for the residents of Aroma Park. I am confident that Aroma Park will continue to prosper under his leadership. He is an excellent role-model in many capacities including, community leader, spouse, father, and grandfather.

NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1145) to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, and for other purposes:

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, Chairman OBERSTAR and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff have worked with us very constructively on this legislation, and I'd like to insert an exchange of letters into the RECORD between Mr. OBERSTAR and myself.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, April 17, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 1145, the "National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009". This legislation directs the President to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative.

H.R. 1145 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forgo a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 1145.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 1145 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 1145 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, April 17, 2009.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your April 17, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction in H.R. 1145. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 1145 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

COPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important public safety legislation.

The Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS, program is one of the most successful law enforcement support programs ever initiated by the federal government. As the National Association of Police Organizations noted in their April 21 letter to me on this bill, "With the support of the COPS Program, community policing has been a dominant force behind the dramatic reduction in crime this nation has witnessed over the past 13 years." It's also clear that our communities are desperate to see this program properly funded, after eight years of neglect.

NAPO noted in their letter to me that in the last month, the COPS Program office received over 7,200 applications for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant funding contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the "stimulus bill." Those 7,200 applications amounted to a request for funds to hire 40,000 more officers nationwide. Yet the \$1 billion CHRP contained in the stimulus bill would allow local communities to hire only 5,000 to 6,000 new police. For New Jersey, previous COPS funding has meant an additional 628 police officers and/or sheriff deputies were walking the beat in the local commu-

nities of my Congressional district. Further, 33 school resource officers were hired to ensure that our children's schools are safe. H.R. 1139 would raise the CHRP authorization level to \$1.25 billion, allowing state and local law enforcement to hire more officers. Based on historical funding data, this bill would allow New Jersey alone to hire more than 2,000 additional police, and those would be welcome reinforcements for our current law enforcement officers who are working to improve the quality of life in communities across New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good and much needed bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

ALTERING LAID OFF EMPLOYEES IN REASONABLE TIME ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the Alert Laid off Employees in Reasonable Time (ALERT) Act, legislation to amend the definition of "mass layoff" in the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act and to increase penalties for the violation of this act.

With unemployment levels on the rise, widespread layoffs have ravaged our nation's workforce. All too frequently, employees are provided with no more than a month's notice to prepare for unemployment, and often less than that. This is a critical time that employees need to prepare for unemployment and to make informed financial decisions.

Current federal law does not do enough to protect these workers. Under the federal WARN Act, employers are only required to provide 60-days notice if the mass layoff impacts at least 500 employees or 33 percent of a workforce when that percentage represents at least 50 employees at one employment site. More and more, companies are conducting widespread layoffs which, nationwide, can impact hundreds and even thousands of employees but these massive layoffs often fail to trigger the WARN Act at each employment site. As such, far too many employees are denied the protections they are entitled to.

To address this issue, I am proud to have introduced the ALERT Act. This legislation amends the definition of a "mass layoff" to include layoffs by one employer at more than one worksite. In addition, this bill would increase the penalty for violating the WARN Act to two times back pay and benefits.

Madam Speaker, in these challenging economic times it is our responsibility to do all we can to protect the workers. We must always remember that they are a key component to the growth of our economy and we must always ensure that they are protected, especially in this time of uncertainty. I am joined in support of this bill by the United Electrical Workers Union (UE) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

TRIBUTE TO THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREMONT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fremont Family Resource Center (FRC) located in Fremont, California. FRC opened its doors in June of 1999 and is currently celebrating ten years of service to the community.

The Fremont Family Resource Center is a collaborative effort of 27 California State, County, City and non-profit service agencies, all working together to serve families in the Tri-City area of southern Alameda County. Together, these agencies made the FRC a "one-stop shop," where families can access a vast array of support services and programs. Their many services include adult and youth employment, child care information, referrals, subsidies and counseling and case management, housing information, parent support, immigration services, family economic success programs, services for the disabled, nutrition services for mothers and children, domestic violence prevention services, and health insurance counseling.

Tri City families make over 100,000 requests annually to FRC for services. The organization has become a model of service that has gained national and international interest and attention.

On the evening of May 2, 2009, FRC will celebrate its 10th anniversary and honor the individuals who have contributed to its success. As Fremont's Human Services Director, Suzanne Shenfil's "out of the box" thinking and leadership has led efforts to mobilize needed social services for vulnerable individuals in the Tri-City community. She has worked tirelessly to bring government and community organizations together to creatively eliminate barriers and build systems to serve those in need. Ms. Shenfil is the impetus behind the creation of the Fremont Family Resource Center.

In addition to the acknowledgment of Suzanne Shenfil, special recognition is also given to other members of the Fremont Family Resource team for their commitment and dedication to insure the success of the FRC. This team includes Letha Barnett, Schuman-Liles Clinic; Ledyia Cedenio, State Department of Rehabilitation; Rodney Clark, Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments; Tony Limperopulos, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services; Shirley McPherson, Child Care Links; and Allen Jackson, Tri-City One Stop Career Center, and the Employment Development Department.

I join the Tri-City community in expressing appreciation to Human Services Director Suzanne Shenfil, the Family Resource Team, and staff and partner organizations for their vision and leadership over the past ten years of exemplary service.