

Information Act requests last year—the largest increase of any agency except for the Social Security Administration, which tripled its denials.

Fourteen months is a short time to change a bureaucracy charged with managing countless records. But a handful of agencies have already shown it is possible and committed to open government changes. On top of other positive reforms, the Departments of Agriculture and Justice, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of Management and Budget all increased how much information they released and decreased how many requests they denied last year. These agencies have embraced the spirit of transparency ushered in by President Obama, and as we mark Sunshine Week, I hope others will follow suit with their own innovative ways to increase transparency and spur citizen involvement. And once agencies adopt these practices, I hope they stick with them—not because they fulfill any Presidential directive but because they give us a better democracy.

#### TRIBUTE TO MITCH ALBOM

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, 25 years ago, an article appeared in the Detroit Free Press sports section headlined, “Give Me a Sporting Chance, And I’ll Give It Right Back.” It was the debut column from a young writer just arrived from Florida, and he admitted to some nerves about writing for his new audience. “Starting tomorrow, I ask your attention, your reaction, your letters, your laughter and, once in a while, the benefit of the doubt,” he wrote.

I doubt many Free Press readers knew that morning that they held the beginning of a journalistic legend in their hands. And the writer himself surely didn’t know what he was starting. But thousands of columns, millions of laughs, more than a few tears, 28 million books, and dozens of awards later, Free Press sports columnist Mitch Albom has become a Detroit institution right alongside the beloved athletes he has covered.

Recently, it was announced that Mitch Albom will receive the ultimate award for a sportswriter, the Red Smith Award from the Associated Press Sports Editors. Smith, the legendary New York writer, once said his demanding craft was really simple: “All you do is sit down at a typewriter and open a vein.” And Mitch Albom is a worthy successor to that legacy of writing with heart and emotion as well as style and precision. In thrilling victories and painful losses, fans of Michigan’s sports teams have seen 25 years of sports history through Albom’s observant eyes. They have gotten to know the State’s towering sports figures—be they heroic, tragic, or both—through Albom’s perceptive character sketches.

That careful attention to the human element of sports allowed Albom to

branch out into other areas. His “Tuesdays with Morrie” is one of the 100 best-selling books of all time. He is one of Michigan’s most listened-to radio hosts, and a regular on ESPN television. And as his success has grown, so have his contributions to his community. His charitable endeavors include efforts to help disadvantaged students study the arts, get health care to homeless families, and gather volunteers for worthy local service projects. Recently, he labored mightily and successfully to get aid to earthquake victims in Haiti.

In winning the Red Smith Award, Albom joins a list of the most honored names in sports journalism. The award speaks forcefully to the respect of his professional peers. For Michigan readers, however, Albom’s ongoing legacy is his remarkable writing on the games and athletes who are so much a part of our State’s identity and DNA and his contributions to improving his community. I congratulate him on this latest honor, and I thank him for 25 years of great journalism. The readers of Michigan and the Nation look forward to many, many years more.

#### TRIBUTE TO RON DZWONKOWSKI

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is a truism, a belief espoused by those of all political parties and persuasions, that the functioning of our democracy depends on an informed citizenry to make wise decisions at the ballot box and hold elected officials accountable.

That means our system depends on careful, thoughtful, impartial journalists, those who bring to their work as much passion for knowledge and understanding as we bring to our advocacy for policies we support. In that difficult and necessary work, few Michigan journalists have succeeded more than Ron Dzwonkowski of the Detroit Free Press, which is why the recent announcement of his selection to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame is so well-deserved.

For nearly three decades, Dzwonkowski has served the Free Press as an editor, editorialist, and columnist. His professional peers have awarded him a host of awards, including a Pulitzer Prize and a National Headliner Award for work to which he has contributed. As an editor and writer for the Free Press’s editorial pages, he has shown a remarkable commitment to accuracy, but just as important, a remarkable passion for solving the problems of our city and State.

Whether he is praising an elected official or criticizing one, his writing is grounded in a thorough understanding of the facts and a commitment to looking out, above all, for the interests of Michigan’s citizens. His reporting, writing, and editing have made a significant and lasting difference in the lives of the readers he serves, and his selection to the State’s hall of fame for journalists is a much-deserved reward for a career of distinguished service,

one I hope will continue for many, many years to come.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO BOB SCOTT

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 80th birthday of a Maryland lacrosse legend, Mr. Bob Scott, a former Johns Hopkins University athlete, coach, and athletic director.

Lacrosse is the official team sport of Maryland and there is perhaps no other Marylander who has done as much for the game as Mr. Scott. His 41-year career at Johns Hopkins, spanning from 1955 to 1995, were years of great success for Hopkins lacrosse as well as Blue Jays athletics in general.

At a university that expects nothing less than dominance on the lacrosse field, Mr. Scott more than lived up to the high expectations. As the head lacrosse coach from 1955 to 1974, Mr. Scott left a legacy that will be hard to match. He led the Blue Jays to an unparalleled seven national championships, his players were recognized as first-team All-Americans an outstanding 42 times, and he left his position with 158 wins, more than any other head coach in program history.

Mr. Scott was a successful lacrosse player for Johns Hopkins from 1948 to 1952 as well. During his playing days, he received national recognition as the winner of the Penniman Award for outstanding play as a midfielder and as an honorable mention All-American.

In addition to his playing and coaching acumen, Mr. Scott also wrote the premier lacrosse book, “Lacrosse: Technique and Tradition,” written in 1976, still sits in lacrosse players’ lockers and on coaches’ desks to this day. The book has since been translated into other languages and has given Mr. Scott the vehicle to become the sport’s unofficial ambassador.

Mr. Scott is more than just a lacrosse legend, however. He helped build Hopkins into the division III powerhouse it is today. During his 22-year tenure as director of athletics, the Blue Jays emerged as national contenders in many different sports—including baseball, basketball, fencing, swimming, and soccer—and Mr. Scott played a pivotal role in successfully developing the women’s athletics program that continues to thrive today.

Most of Mr. Scott’s life has been dedicated to sports, but he also spent 2 years in the U.S. Army after graduating from Johns Hopkins. He rose to the position of instructor in the Ranger Department and was stationed at Fort Benning, GA.

In honor of Mr. Scott’s 80th birthday today—St. Patrick’s Day—I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of a great Marylander who has served our country and has given so much of his time to help mold our Nation’s student-athletes.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR E. KATZ

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate an honorable American and a great Georgian, Mr. Arthur E. Katz.

Arthur graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1963. In Vietnam, he served as the commanding officer, USCGC Point Cypress, a unit attached to Division 13, Coast Guard Squadron One, from December 1965 to September 1966. For his meritorious service, Arthur received the Bronze Star Medal, with Combat Distinguishing Device "V".

Arthur attended Rutgers University, where he earned a masters degree in business administration. He is a successful small business owner, and his commitment to volunteerism and community service is evident through his roles as past president of Temple Emanu-El's Board of Trustees and board member of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta.

A longtime resident of Sandy Springs, GA, Arthur is an avid tennis player, fisherman, and a committed runner of the annual Peachtree Road Race. A dedicated and loving husband of 46 years, Arthur is the father of three daughters and is blessed with seven grandchildren.

On April 23, 2010, Arthur will be inducted to the Wall of Gallantry at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of such an honor than this true champion of patriotism and a countryman, Arthur E. Katz. •

#### TRIBUTE TO TERRY LINDSEY

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Terry Lindsey, who is a great Georgian, a great American, and a great citizen of Polk County. I honor Terry upon his retirement from Engineered Fabrics after 31 remarkable years and for his many contributions to the quality of life in Polk County, GA.

On March 31, 2010, Terry will retire from Engineered Fabrics Corporation in Rockmart, GA. He started with the company in 1979 as the manager of contract management, and he ends his impressive tenure as its vice president of marketing. I know he will be deeply missed by his colleagues at Engineered Fabrics, which is one of the largest employers in Rockmart.

In addition to his impressive career, Terry has a long history of community involvement in Polk County, where he is a well-respected and dedicated leader. Terry is a member of the Rotary and has been active in the Polk County Chamber of Commerce for a number of years. In particular, he has served as an inspiration and a role model to the young men and women in the chambers Youth Leadership committee.

Terry has been a familiar face during the Polk Chambers annual trip to Washington, DC, over the years. He has been instrumental in ensuring mem-

bers of the Polk County delegation had the opportunity to come to Washington and discuss important issues affecting the community with the Georgia congressional delegation through his role as a host or sponsor of these Washington fly-ins.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is a privilege to recognize on the floor of the Senate, Terry Lindsey for his service to Polk County and to our great State of Georgia. He and his wife Jean have earned the many happy years of retirement ahead of them. •

#### REMEMBERING PATRICIA MALONE

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate the life of a wonderful lady and a great Georgian, Mrs. Patricia Malone. Her commitment to the aviation industry spanned more than 50 years, affecting thousands of pilots through training standards.

Patricia "Mother" Malone began her introduction into aviation began during World War II when she was a link instrument training instructor for the U.S. Navy, training fighter pilots in instrument flight procedures. After the war, she was a civilian instructor for the U.S. Air Force.

She went to work for Delta Air Lines in 1972 and moved her family from Quincy, MA, to Atlanta, GA. During her long career with Delta, she created the operations specification curriculum for the airline and served as the manager of certificate compliance by the time she retired in 1994.

Patricia affected countless numbers of aviators through her work in aeronautical charting, and she trained pilots from most of the major airlines as well as military pilots. She earned the nickname "Mother" Malone from her pilots because she did more than teach them instrument flying and FAA regulatory compliance; she was truly invested in the lives of those she taught.

During her retirement years she consulted with pilots and airline industry professionals as well as lending her time to volunteering in her community. She selflessly gave her time to the YWCA of Cobb County, the Delta Pioneer, American Business Womens Association, Goodwill Industries, the American Red Cross, and her local board of elections.

Patricia W. "Mother" Malone passed away on August 12, 2008, at the age of 84. She is survived by her daughters, Alison, Peggy and Tricia, nine grandchildren, and one great grandson.

This year, Patricia will be posthumously inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor. It is only right that her accomplishments are permanently enshrined in Georgia's aviation history. •

#### TRIBUTE TO THEODORE ELDRIDGE

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Theodore Eldridge of

Moro for receiving the John Gammon Award for his dedication and service to the Arkansas agriculture industry. The award is presented each year by the Arkansas office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency.

Theodore represents the best of our Arkansas values: hard work, dedication, and perseverance. He currently serves as the coordinator of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's 52-Acre Demonstration Farm. He also works part-time for the UAPB Demonstration Outreach Center in Marianna and the East Arkansas Enterprise Community.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Theodore on several projects for the USDA Rural Development Program, where he served as district director in Forrest City, and later as the director of water and wastewater programs.

This past December, I was pleased to announce his appointment to serve on the Arkansas Farm Service Agency State Committee. He has since been elected chairman by the committee and has shown exemplary leadership for our State's farmers and ranchers as he ensures our producers have the tools in place to produce a safe and affordable food supply. Theodore plays a vital role in our State's rural communities as he works to facilitate programs that will spur local economic development. He also oversees and informs local producers about USDA programs.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our Arkansas agriculture community. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly \$15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

I salute Theodore and the entire Arkansans agriculture community for their hard work and dedication. •

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MOORE

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Arkansas State Representative Robert Moore on his recent selection to serve as Speaker of the House for the next Arkansas General Assembly.

Born in Dumas and raised in Arkansas City, Representative Moore exemplifies our Arkansas values of hard work, dedication, and leadership. Throughout his 25-year career in public service, Representative Moore has worked to keep Arkansas strong. Since 2007, he has proudly served the residents of southeast Arkansas in the Arkansas General Assembly.

Not only is Representative Moore one of our State's dedicated leaders, he has also helped keep the farm family tradition alive in Arkansas. As the owner