

RECOGNIZING CHARLES CITY,
IOWA, CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Charles City Police Department and the graduates of the first ever Charles City, Iowa, Citizens Police Academy.

On November 13, 2007, seventeen residents of Charles City graduated from the first Charles City Citizens Police Academy, a ten week program facilitated by the Charles City Police Department and North Iowa Area Community College. The Charles City police officers took time to study specific aspects of police work and polished their presentation skills before instructing the classes. The Academy participants learned about the rigorous education and training police officers go through to do their jobs effectively. They also gained knowledge in various topics including; handling stressful situations, law enforcement operations, jurisdiction, the use of force and liability, terrorism training, and self-defense techniques.

This inaugural program has helped citizens better understand all that police do to protect and serve communities and has brought the police and citizens of Charles City closer together. The Academy is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—regular citizens motivated to protect and cooperate with one another for the betterment of their communities.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending and congratulating the Charles City Citizens Police Academy and Charles City Police Chief, Mike Wendel. I consider it an honor to represent each member of the Academy and the Charles City Police Department in the U.S. Congress, and I wish them all the best as they work together to make Charles City a safer place.

RECOGNIZING BUD SCHRIER, THE
2008 CARLISLE, IOWA, CITIZEN OF
THE YEAR.

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bud Schrier for his longtime service to the community of Carlisle, Iowa, and being named 2008 Carlisle Citizen of the Year.

Bud was born in 1930 and grew up on a farm west of Carlisle. After graduating high school, he entered the army and fought in the Korean War. He then came back to Carlisle to marry his wife, Betty, and began a 35 year career as an automotive parts salesman for NAPA. Since 1954, Bud has been an active member of the American Legion, promoting patriotism in his community. He also has dedicated a significant amount of time to volunteering for the needy. Since 1977, Bud has also been involved with the Boy Scouts of America in Carlisle as a Scoutmaster.

Around town, Bud is known for having a deep respect for the American flag. He en-

sures the respectful and proper display of each flag in town and kindly reminds townspeople when their flags need to be replaced. Bud's profound reverence for our country certainly sets a wonderful example for all of us.

Bud's dedication to his community and his commitment to volunteer service should be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Bud Schrier in the U.S. Congress, and I wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE FORT
WORTH TRANSPORTATION AU-
THORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Worth Transportation Authority of Fort Worth, Texas on being recognized by the Federal Transit Administration with the 2008 Ridership Award.

The Federal Transit Administration Ridership Awards honor transit systems that have substantially increased their ridership over the past five years through a variety of methods and improvements. The awards acknowledge the industry's commitment to excellence. The Fort Worth Transportation Authority is one of four agencies recognized that service an area with a population between 200,000 and 1 million people.

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority's bus system, known as "The T," has experienced a significant increase in ridership since the agency executed an advertising campaign aimed at automobile commuters. The effective campaign's goal used fuel prices to show commuters the cost of driving to work by car compared to the cost of using The T system. Additionally, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority partnered with the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) and Texas Christian University (TCU) to promote public transportation use among students of all ages. Fort Worth school teachers were provided with free day passes for field trips, and all TCU faculty, staff and students, as well as FWISD ninth graders, were given a free annual transit pass. The actions taken by the Fort Worth Transportation Authority improved student ridership and established the convenience of public transportation with the future labor force.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize the Fort Worth Transportation Authority for receiving this honor. Their diligence and commitment to promoting public transit benefits both the community and the environment, and I sincerely hope other agencies follow their example.

A COALITION TO BUY STARRETT
CITY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. CLARK. Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to rise today to support the efforts of

a coalition of labor, faith-based, and other community groups to buy Brooklyn's Starrett City. This coalition, consisting of the Christian Cultural Center, the Central Labor Council, and the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty intends to keep the community's interest in mind by making certain that the diverse apartment complex remains affordable for renters.

Since 1974, Starrett City has provided affordable housing to more than 90 percent of the tenants through Government assistance including Federal subsidies. In fact, Starrett City is currently the largest federally subsidized rental complex in the United States.

However, in November 2006, Starrett City residents began to fear the worst as talks began about the possible sale of the 153 acre property. Many believed that the new owners would increase their rent so much that they would no longer be able to live there, and as a result, forcing them to move and possibly making them become homeless. This has been a great concern to many of my New York colleagues such as Congressman ED TOWNS and Congressman ANTHONY WEINER and last year, Representative MAXINE WATERS held a field hearing in Starrett City to examine how Congress can preserve this great treasure for many low and middle income families.

That is why Madam Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to hear that a partnership, spearheaded by the Christian Cultural Center's founder, A.R. Bernard, plans to make a bid to ensure that Starrett City would remain affordable for tenants who cannot pay the skyrocketing rental rates throughout New York City. As he stated, "the coalition's goal is protecting affordability and raising the quality of life for Starrett as a community."

In conclusion, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude and support to this coalition as well as commend them for their efforts to save one of "Brooklyn's last affordable housing frontiers."

NATIONAL LINK AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to bring awareness to the link between animal cruelty and other forms of societal violence by designating the month of September 2008 as National Link Awareness Month.

This resolution would highlight the need for more attention and resources to be focused on how violence toward animals is indicative of other violent tendencies. By investigating the link further, information could be gathered that will help mitigate societal violence.

Psychological, sociological, and criminological studies have shown that violent offenders frequently had a history of abusing animals during their childhood and adolescence. The FBI has recognized the connection since the 1970s, when its analysis of the lives of serial killers suggested that most had killed or tortured animals as children. Research has also shown patterns of animal cruelty among perpetrators of child abuse, spousal abuse, and elder abuse. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association considers animal cruelty