

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,"