

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.