

life, she was a tireless advocate for research on children's mental health. In fact, it was her interest in this issue that prompted Sandy to spearhead an effort to rewrite Michigan's special education laws during the time he was serving as a state senator.

The official description of Vicki's work on an NIH scientific review committee is that she ran a committee of scientists who decided which research proposals to fund in the areas of infant and children's mental health. However, as with many of our public servants, that description simply doesn't give a full picture of what her job really was, or more importantly, what her work meant to the average person.

Since her death, volumes of letters from coast to coast have been sent to the Levin family. Some credited Vicki Levin with helping develop the emerging field of developmental psychopathology; many highlighted how she improved the lives of children by advancing research on the biological and environmental factors necessary for a healthy childhood; a number of scholars credited her with nurturing and encouraging their work at a critical point; and others told personal stories about how Vicki helped them through a personal situation.

In his column, Andy Levin noted that Vicki "was like so many others among the 21 million federal, state, and local public servants who make sure we have clean water to drink, safe roads and park lands, and who try to protect us from things such as tainted Chinese milk without setting up crippling barriers to international trade."

Vicki Levin serves as a perfect example of the kind of person that conducts government work: someone whose goal is promoting and protecting the common good. Her story is a stirring reminder of the recognition that public service professionals merit, and an inspiration for others to join her son and commit to a life of public service.

From the Detroit Free Press, Nov. 27, 2008]
BE GRATEFUL FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS, MAYBE
BECOME ONE YOURSELF
(By Andy Levin)

I come from a family of public servants, people who work for the people.

In recent years, this calling has fallen out of public favor. Approval ratings for the federal government sank to 37% this year, from a high of 73% six years earlier, according to the Pew Center. While much of this has to do with the economy and attitudes toward the Bush administration, distrust of "Washington bureaucrats" is an enduring feature of the American polity.

But two developments herald a public service comeback.

The first, of course, was the election—and the campaign—of Barack Obama. More than any other successful presidential candidate since John Kennedy in 1960, Obama placed at the center of his campaign a call for each of us to serve and to sacrifice for the common good.

The second is the financial meltdown. In the last quarter century, Democratic and Republican administrations alike participated in the mechanistic trend of "less government is better" to the point where banks and investment houses could engage in virtually any scheme to make money with no one really responsible for making sure decisions were sound. And the companies were able to pay their executives outrageous sums that bore no relationship to performance.

In this moment of political opening in reaction to economic crisis, people seem to be realizing that we need public servants, people whose goal is promoting and protecting

the common good, to build a new financial system that encourages investment, the building of real things and the provision of useful services, and that holds financial decision makers accountable for their actions—the essence of capitalism.

If you've been in Michigan for any time at all, you may recognize my last name from our family's long line of public servants. My grandpa, Saul Levin, served on the Michigan Corrections Commission. Saul's brother, Theodore, was a federal judge, and Uncle Ted's son, Charles, served on the Michigan Supreme Court. My dad, U.S. Rep. Sandy Levin, and my uncle, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, have quietly become the longest serving brothers in the history of Congress.

But it's none of these men who set me to wondering whether we're about to see a public service renaissance. No, it was my mom, Vicki Levin, not famous and never elected to office. For almost 30 years, until she was forced to retire in the spring for health reasons, Mom worked hard as a federal employee—a classic "Washington bureaucrat."

We kids thought we knew a lot about Mom's career. She ran a committee of scientists who decided which research proposals to fund in the area of infant and children's mental health. We watched her read through mountains of papers, often bringing work home. We watched her sweat in preparation for the thrice-yearly meetings of her committee, making sure all the details were just right.

But I don't think I ever appreciated what her work meant to her and to others, not fully. Back when I lived in the Washington, D.C., area, I tried to convince Mom to retire so she could spend more time with my four kids and her other grandchildren. After all, she was in her early 70s. Why not kick back? Mom bristled at the idea, saying her work and her relationship with colleagues were central to her life.

When her battle with breast cancer forced her to retire in April, we all learned just what Mom was talking about—and just how much public service can mean. Letters of tribute poured in from colleagues, dozens and dozens of research scientists at universities from coast to coast. (You can read them at <http://eskoink.com/VL/Vickilevin.pdf>.)

Many scholars, some now department chairs, told detailed stories about how they got their research start with Mom's help, or how she co-authored a paper with one scientist that is still her most cited work, or how her committee was the intellectual salon of their field.

Some credit her with helping create the emerging field of developmental psychopathology. More than one said she has made the lives of children everywhere better by helping spawn and nourish path-breaking research on the biological and environmental factors necessary for a healthy childhood. Many of them told personal stories about how Mom had counseled them through a divorce, adoption or rocky situation at the office.

OK, this is my mom, so you can imagine how reading all this felt. But if you step back, Vicki Levin was like so many others among the 21 million federal, state and local public servants who make sure we have clean water to drink, safe roads and park lands, and who try to protect us from things such as tainted Chinese milk without setting up crippling barriers to international trade.

Thanksgiving will be hard for my family this year. Mom died Sept. 4 just a few weeks shy of my parents' 51st wedding anniversary. But as we gather together, and each work privately through our losses and gratitudes, I wonder whether our nation is ready to move on from the simplistic notion that "government is the problem."

Perhaps, with the consequences of unregulated greed staring us in the face this holiday, we are ready to give thanks for the humble public servants, who forgo the greater monetary rewards of the private sector to toil for the good of us all.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the Chairwoman of the Railroad, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Representative CORRINE BROWN, in supporting H. Res. 1301, a resolution supporting and recognizing National Train Day.

The story of trains in our country is one that mirrors the remarkable story of our nation. Over 150 years ago, the first trains started to move people and goods across the nation. Trains helped lay the groundwork for the industrial revolution and helped spur westward expansion.

Today, trains continue to play an important role in American life. In my district, freight is safely moved by train throughout Galesburg, Decatur, and many other areas. Passenger rail plays a tremendous role in modern America. In places like Quincy, Illinois, Amtrak has helped connect smaller communities with larger ones and the resources they have to offer. In the near future, high-speed rail will cross my district in two separate areas helping bridge urban and rural America and making each accessible in a more environmentally friendly way.

I am proud to say that the future of trains in America is bright. I join Chairwoman BROWN in aggressively pursuing a network of high-speed rail corridors that will make the viability of passenger trains more attractive while continuing our work to ensure that the nation's freight rail network remains secure, active, and vibrant.

National Train Day calls attention to the many positive contributions rail makes to our national economy. Rail makes for a safe, clean, effective transport of goods and services. Trains have been, are, and will continue to be a critical part of our nation's great story.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to pass H. Res. 1301, a bipartisan resolution which recognizes and supports National Train Day. I thank Representative BROWN for authoring this bill and look forward to continue working with her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, due to being unavoidably delayed, I missed the vote on the Velázquez/Gutiérrez Amendment No. 5 to H.R. 2499 (Roll No. 238). I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted against this amendment, which failed overwhelmingly by a margin of 11–387, had I been present to record my vote.

RECOGNIZING THE 10,000TH GED "GRADUATE" FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 10,000th GED "graduate" from the Adult Education Program at Southwestern Illinois College.

In 1990, Southwestern Illinois College changed its adult education programming from a general literacy effort to a program focused on preparing students for the GED test and transitioning them into postsecondary education. Martha Giordano, Ph.D., who headed the program then, recalls that "it was like a light coming on. Students wanted a high school completion so they could move on. We had to make everything we did relate to this primary goal." The program revised its curriculum and course scheduling to accomplish that goal.

Martha O'Malley, the St. Clair County Regional Superintendent of Education at the time, also saw the light and decided to help. She made GED testing locally available when she took on the responsibility of testing and persuaded the other district Regional Superintendents to do likewise. GED tests were administered monthly throughout the district and registration for testing became an ongoing activity in the regional offices. This practice continues to the present.

"This combination of intensive, highly focused instruction and frequent local testing accounts for our high numbers," states Giordano. "When students come to our program, they know we will take them from where they are and push them forward until they are ready for that test."

Southwestern Illinois College keeps careful records of the students who pass, and in October 2009, it recorded its 10,000th GED "graduate." This year, at its annual GED Certificate Ceremony—May 19, 2010—the College and District will celebrate this important milestone.

Southwestern Illinois College has one of the largest adult education programs in Illinois. It averages over 500 graduates annually, and

last year 573 of its students earned the GED. Over the years 42 percent of these GED graduates have enrolled in undergraduate programs at Southwestern alone. "We see our former adult education students in the halls and classrooms at SWIC and all about town," reports Janice Buchwald, the current GED Director. The program has students who have finished nursing programs, transferred to 4-year institutions and are working as lab technicians, graphic designers, cafeteria managers, salespersons and in a host of other occupations. Undoubtedly Southwestern Illinois College's adult education efforts are having a significant impact on the lives of many district residents.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the board, administration, faculty and students of Southwestern Illinois College as they recognize and celebrate the 10,000th GED "graduate" from their Adult Education Program.

CELEBRATING MOTHERS AND MOTHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1295, "Celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day." First and foremost I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from Nebraska, Representative JEFF FORTENBERRY, for introducing this bill. It is vital we recognize that mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong nation. The services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history.

Today I stand before my colleagues honoring the 102d anniversary since the first official Mother's Day. As a mother of two children myself, I understand the hardships and difficulties that so many mothers face every day in our country. We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the

home and family as the true foundation of the Nation. I want to pay tribute to my mother Ivalita Jackson who has stood the test of time in rearing and raising her children. I would also like to take this time to honor my aunt Valerie Bennett for her constant love and support. To the mothers of Houston, too many to name here, I salute you for your dedication to raising and saving your children.

Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation.

Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; Mothers throughout our country juggle between work, family and the household, all with a smile on their faces.

On May 9, 2010, we will honor mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, stepmothers, foster mothers and godmothers who take in children, mothers who adopt, those who act as mothers, for those women who have no relations by blood but who give the gift of mothering to children.

I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work. Mothers have a huge influence on our everyday lives; we owe all of our success to them. As former President George Washington put it best "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her." We can never thank our mothers enough for all the sacrifices they have made for us. I wish all families a very happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 252, the Barton of Texas Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."