

Nothing has changed about that. This is what we do."

The Pulitzers, awarded by Columbia University, are widely regarded as journalism's highest accolade. The only other newspaper to win more than one prize in this year's 14 categories was the New York Times, with five.

The St. Petersburg Times previously had won six Pulitzers, its most recent coming in 1998.

Though Columbia tries to keep results under wraps until one nationwide announcement, reporters and secrets don't mix well.

By lunchtime Monday, grins, hugs and excited whispers spread through the newsroom. A few minutes before the 3 p.m. announcement, staffers congregated around one computer to await the Associated Press bulletin together.

After congratulations died down, DeGregory told her colleagues she was working at the Virginian-Pilot 10 years ago, when she read "Angels & Demons," a Pulitzer-winning series by then-Times reporter Thomas French about the murders of an Ohio woman and her two daughters in Florida.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, there's a newspaper that publishes real stories like that?'"

When she was hired at the Times in 2000, DeGregory said, "I thought it couldn't get any better than working at this place and working with these people. But today it got a little better."

"The Girl in the Window" was published last August, with photos by Melissa Lyttle.

Danielle was 7 when neighbors spotted her face through a broken window of her home. Detectives found her in diapers, her skeletal body raw from bug bites.

She couldn't speak. A Fort Myers family adopted her, and DeGregory chronicled their efforts to draw her from her silent shell.

Within a month of publication, more than 1 million people read the story online. Calls to authorities from Tampa Bay residents wanting to adopt foster children jumped 33 percent.

Times staff writer John Barry was a Pulitzer finalist in the feature category for "Winter's Tale," an account of a dolphin with a prosthetic tail and a disabled girl who befriended it.

PolitiFact was conceived by Washington bureau chief Bill Adair during the runup to the 2008 presidential election.

Adair, 47, felt frustrated in earlier campaigns by a lack of time and resources to fact-check political rhetoric.

"We had neglected this aspect of reporting too long," said Adair, a 20-year Times veteran. "With the Web, we had the tools to do reporting better and the tools to be able to publish in new ways."

With the green light from Times' brass, Adair skipped traditional campaign coverage and worked full time on PolitiFact.

The PolitiFact team included editors Scott Montgomery and Amy Hollyfield, reporter and researcher Angie Drobnic Holan, reporters Robert Farley and Alexander Lane, news technologist Matthew Waite and designer Martin Frobisher.

The team combed through political ads, speeches and debates, and summarized the findings on a "Truth-O-Meter," which labeled statements as True, Mostly True, Half True, Barely True, False or Pants on Fire.

A searchable database kept the rulings accessible.

Soon other media outlets were quoting PolitiFact as an authority on public discourse, and Adair was appearing on CNN and National Public Radio.

About 95 percent of the Web site's hits come from outside the Tampa Bay area and 10 percent from outside the United States.

"This is such a terrible time for newspapers, and I think our winning today is a sign that the Web is not a death sentence for newspapers," Adair said. "We need to look at it as an opportunity."

For the first time this year, the Pulitzer board invited entries in all categories from Web-only news operations. The Times won the only prize for content created for the Web.

Editor, chairman and CEO Paul Tash capped off Monday's newsroom toasts by recalling longtime owner Nelson Poynter, who willed the Times to a not-for-profit journalism institute so that public service, not profits, would drive the newspaper's corporate culture.

"Here's to a little guy, in a bow tie, who came from Indiana," Tash said. "He gave us the chance, and today our colleagues have vindicated his confidence."

Pulitzer Prizes at the St. Petersburg Times and Evening Independent

1998: Thomas French, feature writing, for "Angels & Demons," his narrative portrait of an Ohio mother and two daughters slain on a Florida vacation, and the three-year inquiry into their murders.

1995: Jeffrey Good, editorial writing, for "Final Indignities," his editorial campaign urging reform of Florida's probate system for settling estates.

1991: Sheryl James, feature writing, for "A Gift Abandoned," a series about a mother who abandoned her newborn child and how it affected her life and the lives of others.

1985: Lucy Morgan and Jack Reed, investigative reporting, for their reporting on Pasco County Sheriff John Short, which revealed his department's troubles and led to his removal from office by voters.

1980: Bette Swenson Orsini and Charles Stafford, national reporting, for their investigation of the Church of Scientology.

1964: Times staff, public service, for the investigation of the Florida Turnpike Authority, which disclosed widespread illegal acts and resulted in a major reorganization of the state's road construction program.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I believe it is important that we all remember the past, whether it relates to people's positive actions or their negative. The saying that those who do not know their past are doomed to repeat it holds much truth. For that reason, today I rise to recognize a tragic event in human history that resulted in the loss of the lives of nearly 1.5 million Armenians during World War I.

On April 24, 1915, the then-Ottoman Empire began the systematic execution of Armenians, an event now known as the Armenian Genocide. While a large number of Armenians were killed outright, many others suffered and died of starvation and diseases which spread through their concentration camps. By 1923, the entire Armenian population previously inhabiting the landmass of Asia Minor and West Armenia had been eliminated.

As a Member of Congress, I have joined with nearly one hundred of my colleagues in support of legislation affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide and

urging the President to ensure U.S. foreign policy reflects an understanding of the human suffering relating to this genocide. I appreciate the efforts of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, which recently appealed to President Barack Obama requesting that he remain true to his previous statements and, as President, recognize the Armenian Genocide as, "a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence."

Madam Speaker, the United States serves as an example to the world of what can be achieved when basic human rights are protected and nurtured. It is in this role that we must recognize this methodic extermination of over one million Armenians during World War I. Moreover, I believe that through appropriate recognition, we can work to ensure that atrocities such as the Armenian Genocide are remembered, and not relived.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY VOLUNTEER BOB WILLIAMS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, during National Volunteer Week, to recognize Bob Williams, a man who has gone above and beyond in the call to serve his community and fellow American.

I first met Bob and learned of his story when he visited my office in his role as the American Cancer Society's Ambassador for New York's 27th Congressional District.

Bob, a cancer survivor himself, does not simply advocate on the fight against cancer, he lives it.

Bob is a volunteer with the American Cancer Society's "Road to Recovery" program which links patients in need of transportation to cancer treatments with volunteers willing to donate their time and the use of their car to provide free transportation.

With remarkable devotion and an overflowing heart Bob has made trip after trip—well over 500 in total—providing patients with comfort and companionship as they drive the over 120 mile round trip route between Chautauque County and Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Quickly the miles added up and with more than 100,000 miles under his belt Bob recently rightfully earned the title American Cancer Society Western New York Volunteer of the year.

Through the "Road to Recovery" program Bob has provided transportation to over 1,600 people, relieving patients of the fight to find a ride to treatment and allowing them to focus on the fight against the disease.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor Bob Williams, a man who with humility and compassion has set an example for us all on the enormous difference one person can make. Bob's volunteerism is admirable and inspiring and I am pleased to acknowledge his many contributions this Volunteer Week.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
ROSIE SEAMAN

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor the career of beloved television host, author and community leader, Rosie Seaman.

A former preschool and kindergarten teacher, Rosie joined Mobile's WKRG-TV5 in 1974 as the host of "Rosie's Place," a locally-produced, weekly half-hour show for school-age children. For almost ten years, families across the central Gulf Coast welcomed Rosie into their homes. In 1976, "Rosie's Place" won the Alabama Arts and Humanities Award for best TV series in the state.

Rosie later went on to produce other children's programming at WKRG, including "Small Fry News" and "Youth Magazine."

Rosie has worn many hats over the course of her 35 year career with Mobile's CBS affiliate. She was the producer of the public affairs program, "Page 5," associate producer for the "We Are Mobile" tri-centennial movie project, and producer for WKRG's morning and noon news programs. Most recently, she served as segment producer at WKRG, booking guests for the station's news and public affairs programs.

Through her work at WKRG, Rosie ensured that civic leaders and organizations had frequent access to the airwaves. She helped organizations including the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army and the Child Advocacy Center reach out to viewers through the station's public affairs and talk segments on news shows.

Rosie was also the author of several nationally published educational books, which ranged in topic from arts and sciences to the teaching of moral values to young children. Mobile's Drug Education Council recently published one of Rosie's books on drug awareness for young children.

In recognition of her remarkable accomplishments, The Press Club of Mobile awarded Rosie its 2004 John Harris Lifetime Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. On behalf of all those who have benefited from her good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts in making Mobile and south Alabama a better place. Rosie Seaman is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of broadcast journalism.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN GRANDVILLE, MICHIGAN

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2009*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the First Reformed Church of Grandville, Michigan. On Sunday, April 19, 2009, a commemorative worship service and celebration will memorialize this extraordinary milestone, and it is a privilege to recognize and honor Reverend Christopher Wolf and the congregation of this remarkable church for the model of Christian service and the beacon of hope they have offered to the Grandville community over the past 150 years.

From the first service on April 13, 1859 up until today, First Reformed has faithfully served The Lord, the residents of Grandville, and the world through its ministries, involvement in the community, and missionary outreach. The commemoration of First Reformed's sesquicentennial anniversary during the April 19 service is the highlight of a year-long celebration of spiritual, historic and community events.

This remarkable anniversary reminds all of us that wonderful things do happen when we seek to serve and glorify God. Reflecting on the journey experienced by the congregants of First Reformed over the last 150 years, it is appropriate to reaffirm and strengthen our own faith, acknowledge the blessings bestowed upon us, and recognize the call to reach out to others and share God's love.

I am proud to represent the people who call First Reformed their church home, and am grateful to this congregation for their Christ-like example. I am honored to extend my best wishes on this sesquicentennial occasion, and look forward to their service and ministry to the people of Grandville for many more years.

**HONORING DR. NANCY ZIMPHER**

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2009*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Nancy Zimpher, President of the University of Cincinnati for her tremendous dedication to higher education. Unfortunately, President Zimpher will be departing us to become the new chancellor of the State University of New York on June 1. They will be blessed to have her.

A native Ohioan, President Zimpher became the University of Cincinnati's 25th president and first woman president in October of 2003. From the beginning, President Zimpher worked tirelessly to raise the University's profile. During her tenure she increased the University of Cincinnati's freshman class and total enrollments to new heights, while increasing retention and graduation rates. The caliber of students and educators at the University of Cincinnati has never been higher. President Zimpher's immense responsibilities have included managing 16 colleges, an academic

medical and research center, one billion dollar annual budget, and the most employees in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Away from the University, President Zimpher has given her time and talents to numerous civic causes, including serving on the boards of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati Center City Development, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, and many others.

As a proud graduate of the University of Cincinnati and a faithful Bearcat, it is with a heavy heart that I congratulate Dr. Zimpher on her new and exciting opportunity as chancellor of the State University of New York. The Cincinnati region and most importantly the University of Cincinnati are better off today due to President Zimpher's dedication and leadership. Good luck Dr. Zimpher, you will be missed.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican guidelines on earmarks, I submit the following statement for the record regarding H.R. 1105, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force  
Address of Requesting Entity: One Park Center Court, Manassas Park, VA, 20111

Description of Request: In response to increasing gang activity in northern Virginia, a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force was established in 2003 to more effectively respond to gang activity. As a result of the task force's efforts, criminal gang activity has declined by more than 50 percent. In order to sustain and maintain these impressive results, the task force requested \$2.5 million in funding, which is included in H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northwest Virginia Regional Gang Task Force  
Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 49, Berryville, VA, 22611

Description of Request: In response to increasing gang activity in the Shenandoah Valley, this task force was established to coordinate and share information with their counterparts at the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the entire northern Virginia region is a hotbed of gang activity. In order to better fight gang activity in this area, the task force requested \$750,000 in funding, which is included in H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Capital Investment Grants  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project