

Albertville, Minnesota, for being chosen as a national winner in the Letters about Literature Reading Contest.

Miss Lever, 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," Miss Lever 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 Lever 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 Lever 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 Lever 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.

CELEBRATING ABINGTON
TOWNSHIP

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Abington Township, a community in my district that has been recognized with three distinct national honors. Abington Township is a three-time winner of America's Promise "100 Best Communities for Young People" in the United States, and in fact, the township is the only three-time winner in Pennsylvania. Money Magazine named Abington Township as one of the "100 Best Places to Live in America" and most recently, US News & World Report awarded Abington Senior High School a bronze medal as one of America's best high schools.

I have had the privilege of representing Abington in the Pennsylvania State Senate and now as a member of Congress. I am also proud to be an Abington resident. Over the years, I have seen first-hand Abington's demonstrated commitment to building a strong community dedicated to the advancement of the lives of its young people.

Abington Township's "Triple Crown Awards" are the result of a concerted collaborative effort among the school district, police department, community organizations, businesses, and residents who have worked tirelessly to create a responsible, caring, and safe community. They've established the Abington Community Taskforce, comprised of parents, police, religious and civic leaders and over thirty civic groups, dedicated to the mission of teaching tolerance, promoting neighborhood safety, and building strong families.

The Abington Police Department has established strong community partnerships with innovative programs like D.A.R.E., the Police Athletic League, Citizens and Police Together, Kids in Safety Seats, and Town Watch. Abing-

ton Township adopted the state-sponsored Communities That Care Initiative to advance their collaborative efforts based on an annual needs assessment to best direct their long-term community building initiatives. They've established joint initiatives between the school district and police department, including an anti-drug program and the Community Partnership of Youth and Adults to encourage community spirit and participation.

Abington Township is the recipient of repeated national recognition because, as a community, the people of Abington represent values that are at the very core of the American spirit—duty, respect, selfless service, honor, and integrity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the incredible accomplishments of Abington Township and wishing the residents of the township success in their endeavors to better their community. Abington Township sets an example for all of us to follow. I couldn't be prouder of Abington for its outstanding efforts.

HONORING DARRELL WAYNE
VANZANDT II

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Darrell Wayne VanZandt II a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Darrell has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Darrell has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Darrell Wayne VanZandt II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF MAYOR NORM
GRIMSLEY

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norm Grimsley for his twenty-seven years of service as Mayor of Aroma Park and dedication to his family.

Under Mayor Grimsley's tenure, the Village of Aroma Park added a sewer system, which has greatly improved the quality of life of village residents. He worked to encourage the growth of new businesses, which brought Aroma Park thousands of dollars in additional revenue each year. Mayor Grimsley showed strong leadership on transportation issues, as evident in Aroma Park's early support and participation in the River Valley Metro Bus System.

Mayor Grimsley has enjoyed a forty-five year marriage to his wife Pam. He raised two successful children: Mike, a health manager and Carrie Grimsley-Jones, a professor of anatomy and physiology. He also has four grandchildren.

Mayor Grimsley has performed decades of superb service for the residents of Aroma Park. I am confident that Aroma Park will continue to prosper under his leadership. He is an excellent role-model in many capacities including, community leader, spouse, father, and grandfather.

NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ACT
OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1145) to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, and for other purposes:

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, Chairman OBERSTAR and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff have worked with us very constructively on this legislation, and I'd like to insert an exchange of letters into the RECORD between Mr. OBERSTAR and myself.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, April 17, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 1145, the "National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009". This legislation directs the President to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative.

H.R. 1145 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forgo a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 1145.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 1145 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 1145 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.