

IN RECOGNITION OF SHREWSBURY
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services, the only private, non-profit social service agency in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services has provided programs and services to help Shrewsbury residents reach their full potential and has promoted the best quality of life for over 27 years.

Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services was founded in 1983, and has since grown to serve over 1,500 children and families each year. They strive to provide a wide range of counseling, empowerment services and youth development programs in order to strengthen children, families and individuals in Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services is also committed to ensuring that no one, including the many low income families they serve, is turned away based on an inability to pay for services.

On February 26, 2011, Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services will be holding their 7th Annual Fundraising Gala, and I would like to take a moment to recognize the individuals being honored for their service to the community: the Irving J. Donahue Family, recipients of the Harry S. Cutting Jr. Award; and Hannah Boudreau, John McBride, Sara Pederson and Leland Smith, recipients of the 2011 Outstanding Youth of Shrewsbury Awards.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the United States House of Representatives joins me in recognizing Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services for their dedicated and invaluable work in my district. I sincerely hope that they are able to continue their generosity and serve the Shrewsbury community far into the future.

TRIBUTE TO VERNON MINTON, DI-
RECTOR OF THE ALABAMA MA-
RINE RESOURCES DIVISION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Vernon Minton, one of the best friends of Alabama's Gulf Coast recreational and commercial fishermen, who recently passed away at the untimely age of 61. Vern Minton was a major force behind protecting and building Alabama's coastal fisheries and his loss will be sorely felt.

A graduate of Auburn University where he earned a master's degree in biology, Vern Minton began his life's work as a steward of Alabama's coastal fisheries in 1978 at the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. For the next 32 years, Mr. Minton would have increasing impact upon the science and the quality of Alabama's marine life. He assisted in the development of techniques for raising many species of fish and authored papers on raising marine animals in captivity.

By December 1990, Vern Minton was appointed director of the Marine Resources Divi-

sion of the Alabama Department of Conservation which manages estuaries and saltwater resources along the state's Gulf Coast. He is credited with both the modernization of his department's enforcement methods as well as the creation of the state's inshore and offshore artificial reef programs.

Although Alabama has the smallest sea-coast of the Gulf states, fish stocks in our state waters are robust, thanks to the leadership of Vern Minton. As a member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, he was a consistent voice for the need of updated data to accurately calculate red snapper populations and set snapper fishing limits.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and the Gulf Coast who have benefitted from Vern's efforts to enhance and protect our marine life, I wish to extend my condolences to his wife Sharon; their children, Randal and Kristen; grandchild, T.J., and all their family and friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, Congressional Republicans often assert that their aggressive budget cutting is in line with the desires of the American people. The cuts Republicans propose for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011 include eliminating support for homeless veterans, cutting nearly a billion dollars from programs for law enforcement and first responders, and gutting environmental protections that keep our air, water and food safe. As House Republicans continue their march to weaken our communities, kill jobs, and make our most vulnerable citizens bear the burden for tax cuts for the wealthiest citizens, there is another target for cutting—the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, CPB.

In this bill, House Appropriations Chairman HAROLD ROGERS (R-KY) is working to eradicate all funding for CPB and eliminate federal support for public media. This attack on unbiased reporting, cultural programming, and educational television and radio would have dire consequences in my home State for Minnesota Public Radio and Twin Cities Public Television, not to mention the Minnesota taxpayers who rely on public broadcasting every day.

CPB's funding is directed to local public broadcasting stations, which provide commercial-free, high-quality programming to millions of Americans every day. Public broadcasting outlets target underserved audiences, children, minorities, and low-income Americans with non-biased news and cultural programming.

Public broadcasting is one of the most valuable community assets, and it is a prime example of the numerous benefits that come

from investment from the federal government. Every month, over half of all Americans utilize public broadcasting—170 million people—through 368 public television stations, 943 radio stations, and hundreds of online services. Federal funding for CPB costs \$1.35 per American ever year, while the rest of the funding comes from private donations. Public broadcasting is a vital educational resource for teachers, parents, and children.

In addition to providing a valuable community good, a majority of Americans value public media and advocate that the federal government continue its support. Last year, Americans rated public broadcasting as an "excellent" use of taxpayer dollars, coming in second to defense spending. Eighty percent of those who were surveyed believe that funding for public broadcasting is money "well spent."

A vote in support of CPB funding is a vote for the American people. Public broadcasting is what our citizens want, and Chairman ROGERS and the rest of the Republicans should listen.

Members from the Fourth District have contacted me to speak out in support of public broadcasting and against this egregious attack.

A St. Paul student, age 14, just called me today to tell me that she is the voice of the future and very supportive of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

A resident from St. Paul told me, "Thank you for standing up for public broadcasting. You are right when you say the Tea Party would like nothing better than to eliminate the one place where we go to find balanced reporting. I am a sustaining member of both public television and radio and find it to be a source of hope in this media-fallow country."

A college student in St. Paul wrote me to say, "I am deeply concerned about proposed legislation in the House that would eliminate federal funding for PBS and NPR. It is vital to our country and our public discourse that we have some forms of independent journalism that are unbiased and free from corporate interests. Not only does public media provide a trusted news and entertainment source for adults around the Nation, but the educational children's programming helps get youngsters from all backgrounds off to a good start. I grew up watching Sesame Street, Mr. Rogers, and Nova on what was then Channel 2 (now TPT). Now, as a college student at the University of Minnesota—Morris, I still depend on PBS and NPR every day. I fear that cuts to federal funding for public media will have an especially adverse effect on smaller and rural stations, like Pioneer Public TV, which are more dependent on federal money. It pains me to imagine a time when public media isn't available to future generations of Americans as a source of nonpartisan information available to all."

Another St. Paul resident said, "I am a current supporter of the MN TPT, and would hate to see this wonderful service eliminated because someone in Congress thinks it is unnecessary. Many people can't afford cable or satellite television—I can only afford the lowest basic service—and the programming on TPT is educational, entertaining and innovative. Please fight to keep the funding! Thank you!"

As you can see, residents of the 4th District of Minnesota are strong supporters of this essential service. Federal support for CPB keeps