

The department most recently purchased a 750-gallon pump.

Without volunteer fire halls like Short Mountain, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Short Mountain Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Michael Underhill, Asst. Chief Albert Summers, Secretary, Equipment Manager Carol Zellman, Brad Odom, Cory Reed, Jordan McGee, Tony Neal, Jonathan Scurlock, Cyndi Hill, Jamie Campbell, Chip Avera, David Smith, Anthony Prater, Leeroy Jones, Honorary Members: Larie Zellman, Billy Youngblood, Connie Cantrell, Cindy Underhill, Tracy Neal, and Sue Youngblood.

CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD, RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Minnesota State Arts Board as the recipient of the 2007 National Accessibility Leadership Award.

On behalf of the Twin Cities and the citizens of Minnesota, I wish to congratulate the Minnesota State Arts Board for receiving this special award sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. The National Accessibility Leadership Award recognizes the Minnesota State Arts Board's exceptional leadership and highly effective work to make the arts fully inclusive throughout their organization, programming and State.

Board Chair, Andrew Berryhill, the board members, and Executive Director, Thomas Proehl, are to be commended for their invaluable leadership that has made the Minnesota Arts Board a model of accessibility. The Board has built accessibility into every aspect of what it does: its office space, programming, requirements for grantees, and its efforts to reach and serve artists with disabilities.

In March 2002, the Minnesota State Arts Board joined with VSA arts of Minnesota to present the first-ever statewide forum entitled "The Art of Employment: Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities". As a result, the Artists With Disabilities Alliance was formed in the Twin-cities area, bringing artists with disabilities together to work on projects to advance arts training and career opportunities. Subsequently, the Arts Board, in partnership with its regional arts councils, organized and created six regional artists' networks throughout Minnesota. The Minnesota State Arts

Board continues to provide support to the regional groups for a wide variety of activities, such as exhibits, performances, workshops, marketing, and access accommodations. In fact, this highly successful regional model is presently being replicated by the Texas Commission on the Arts.

In August 2007, the Minnesota State Arts Board took a major step to expand its technical assistance work on a national level by co-hosting the "Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability" conference with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The meeting brought together 180 artists, arts administrators, educators, and accessibility consultants from around the country to further advance their skills in making the arts fully accessible. This gathering highlighted the board's work to ensure access to Minnesota's art and programming.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the Minnesota State Arts Board, its staff, board members, and advisors, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of their hard work and dedication to increasing access to the arts.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, the motion to instruct conferees included language from the Senate stating that "the Senate should not pass legislation that will undermine our military's ability to prevent a failed state in Iraq." I voted for the motion because the brave men and women of our military have done an outstanding job. They have served our country extremely well under difficult circumstances, and they have done everything that we have asked of them.

Preventing Iraq from becoming a failed state is not the job of the United States military; it is the job of the Iraqi Government and people. The Bush Administration assures us that Iraq is not a failed state, so our troops should be allowed to leave. We need to set a firm timeline for withdrawing from Iraq, so that Iraq's political leaders know that they will need to take responsibility for their own future.

RECOGNIZING MR. DANIEL UYECHI

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding steward and teacher in my district, Mr. Daniel Uyechi of Sierra Middle School in Parker. This year, Mr. Uyechi has been awarded the title and honor of a Milken National Educator for his efforts to expand the knowledge and livelihoods of his students. His efforts have undoubtedly made positive impacts among his students, helping them lay the foundations for a successful and rewarding future.

The Milken National Educator Awards are annual monetary gifts given to individual educators nationwide for their remarkable achievements both in and outside of the classroom. Chosen by an independent commission appointed by each State's department of education, these awards highlight and celebrate the successes of a handful of America's most distinguished and prominent educators. I am honored that I have the opportunity to represent one of these fine citizens.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Uyechi and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE COTTONTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1999. The department covers approximately 90 square miles and protects 1,100 households. In 2006, the department responded to 151 calls.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Cottontown, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Joe McLaughlin, Asst. Chief Mike Owens, Lt. Patrick McLaughlin, Lt. Bill Kelly, Glenn Schirg, Shannon Baker, Tommy Casteel, Lydia Casteel, Chris Casteel, President Laura Owens, Treasurer Marilyn McLaughlin.

HONORING THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Rutherford County Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Rutherford County Volunteer Fire Department was established in June 1998 to protect the citizens in District 11 of Rutherford County. District 11 has a population of 7,340. Currently, the fire department has 30 volunteers, 7 officers, and 5 members serving on the board of directors.