

RECOGNIZING CHARLES CITY,
IOWA, CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Charles City Police Department and the graduates of the first ever Charles City, Iowa, Citizens Police Academy.

On November 13, 2007, seventeen residents of Charles City graduated from the first Charles City Citizens Police Academy, a ten week program facilitated by the Charles City Police Department and North Iowa Area Community College. The Charles City police officers took time to study specific aspects of police work and polished their presentation skills before instructing the classes. The Academy participants learned about the rigorous education and training police officers go through to do their jobs effectively. They also gained knowledge in various topics including; handling stressful situations, law enforcement operations, jurisdiction, the use of force and liability, terrorism training, and self-defense techniques.

This inaugural program has helped citizens better understand all that police do to protect and serve communities and has brought the police and citizens of Charles City closer together. The Academy is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—regular citizens motivated to protect and cooperate with one another for the betterment of their communities.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending and congratulating the Charles City Citizens Police Academy and Charles City Police Chief, Mike Wendel. I consider it an honor to represent each member of the Academy and the Charles City Police Department in the U.S. Congress, and I wish them all the best as they work together to make Charles City a safer place.

RECOGNIZING BUD SCHRIER, THE
2008 CARLISLE, IOWA, CITIZEN OF
THE YEAR.

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bud Schrier for his longtime service to the community of Carlisle, Iowa, and being named 2008 Carlisle Citizen of the Year.

Bud was born in 1930 and grew up on a farm west of Carlisle. After graduating high school, he entered the army and fought in the Korean War. He then came back to Carlisle to marry his wife, Betty, and began a 35 year career as an automotive parts salesman for NAPA. Since 1954, Bud has been an active member of the American Legion, promoting patriotism in his community. He also has dedicated a significant amount of time to volunteering for the needy. Since 1977, Bud has also been involved with the Boy Scouts of America in Carlisle as a Scoutmaster.

Around town, Bud is known for having a deep respect for the American flag. He en-

ures the respectful and proper display of each flag in town and kindly reminds townspeople when their flags need to be replaced. Bud's profound reverence for our country certainly sets a wonderful example for all of us.

Bud's dedication to his community and his commitment to volunteer service should be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Bud Schrier in the U.S. Congress, and I wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE FORT
WORTH TRANSPORTATION AU-
THORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Worth Transportation Authority of Fort Worth, Texas on being recognized by the Federal Transit Administration with the 2008 Ridership Award.

The Federal Transit Administration Ridership Awards honor transit systems that have substantially increased their ridership over the past five years through a variety of methods and improvements. The awards acknowledge the industry's commitment to excellence. The Fort Worth Transportation Authority is one of four agencies recognized that service an area with a population between 200,000 and 1 million people.

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority's bus system, known as "The T," has experienced a significant increase in ridership since the agency executed an advertising campaign aimed at automobile commuters. The effective campaign's goal used fuel prices to show commuters the cost of driving to work by car compared to the cost of using The T system. Additionally, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority partnered with the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) and Texas Christian University (TCU) to promote public transportation use among students of all ages. Fort Worth school teachers were provided with free day passes for field trips, and all TCU faculty, staff and students, as well as FWISD ninth graders, were given a free annual transit pass. The actions taken by the Fort Worth Transportation Authority improved student ridership and established the convenience of public transportation with the future labor force.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize the Fort Worth Transportation Authority for receiving this honor. Their diligence and commitment to promoting public transit benefits both the community and the environment, and I sincerely hope other agencies follow their example.

A COALITION TO BUY STARRETT
CITY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. CLARK. Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to rise today to support the efforts of

a coalition of labor, faith-based, and other community groups to buy Brooklyn's Starrett City. This coalition, consisting of the Christian Cultural Center, the Central Labor Council, and the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty intends to keep the community's interest in mind by making certain that the diverse apartment complex remains affordable for renters.

Since 1974, Starrett City has provided affordable housing to more than 90 percent of the tenants through Government assistance including Federal subsidies. In fact, Starrett City is currently the largest federally subsidized rental complex in the United States.

However, in November 2006, Starrett City residents began to fear the worst as talks began about the possible sale of the 153 acre property. Many believed that the new owners would increase their rent so much that they would no longer be able to live there, and as a result, forcing them to move and possibly making them become homeless. This has been a great concern to many of my New York colleagues such as Congressman ED TOWNS and Congressman ANTHONY WEINER and last year, Representative MAXINE WATERS held a field hearing in Starrett City to examine how Congress can preserve this great treasure for many low and middle income families.

That is why Madam Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to hear that a partnership, spearheaded by the Christian Cultural Center's founder, A.R. Bernard, plans to make a bid to ensure that Starrett City would remain affordable for tenants who cannot pay the skyrocketing rental rates throughout New York City. As he stated, "the coalition's goal is protecting affordability and raising the quality of life for Starrett as a community."

In conclusion, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude and support to this coalition as well as commend them for their efforts to save one of "Brooklyn's last affordable housing frontiers."

NATIONAL LINK AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to bring awareness to the link between animal cruelty and other forms of societal violence by designating the month of September 2008 as National Link Awareness Month.

This resolution would highlight the need for more attention and resources to be focused on how violence toward animals is indicative of other violent tendencies. By investigating the link further, information could be gathered that will help mitigate societal violence.

Psychological, sociological, and criminological studies have shown that violent offenders frequently had a history of abusing animals during their childhood and adolescence. The FBI has recognized the connection since the 1970s, when its analysis of the lives of serial killers suggested that most had killed or tortured animals as children. Research has also shown patterns of animal cruelty among perpetrators of child abuse, spousal abuse, and elder abuse. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association considers animal cruelty

one of the diagnostic criteria of conduct disorder.

The link between animal abuse and domestic violence is a recognized fact. Each year, defenseless pets face the sad and disturbing reality that they will be victims of cruelty and abuse. Domestic abusers commonly torture or kill family pets as a method of exerting control and ensuring submission. This causes victims, children and adults alike, to remain in violent households in order to ensure their beloved pets are not harmed further.

Research indicates that children who are exposed to domestic violence are nearly three times more likely to mistreat animals than children who are not exposed to such violence. Tragically, this behavior is often symptomatic of future abuse toward other animals or human beings. Significant research documents a relationship between childhood histories of animal cruelty and patterns of chronic interpersonal aggression.

Due to the correlation between animal abuse and other forms of family and community violence, animal abuse must be taken very seriously. Human services, animal services, and law enforcement agencies must share resources and expertise to address animal and human related violence in communities. By effectively and comprehensively addressing the link between violence towards animals and other forms of societal violence, we can learn information that will help stop violence in the home as well as the community at large.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the designation of September 2008 as National Link Awareness Month so that more awareness will be brought to the link between animal cruelty and other forms of violence in society.

RECOGNIZING LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN CLEAR LAKE, IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 115 second grade students at Lincoln Elementary School in Clear Lake, Iowa, for their efforts in making the holidays brighter for our U.S. troops overseas.

The second grade class participated in a project called "Operation Stockings for Soldiers." The children donated their own time and money to fill stockings with video games, DVD's, razors, stationary and a variety of other items. Each student also wrote inspiring letters, thanking the soldiers for protecting America and wishing them happy holidays. Some of the students' families donated money for the postage on the stockings.

This collective effort at Lincoln Elementary School is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to improving the lives of others. I commend all the students, their families and especially their teacher, Kim Williamson, who organized this heartwarming effort to help our Iowa soldiers overseas. The effort of Kim and her students has reinforced the importance and joy of giving to others. I consider it an honor to represent each of the second graders, teachers

and parents of the Lincoln Elementary School community involved in the "Operations Stockings for Soldiers" project in the U.S. Congress, and commend them for their great act of compassion. And I know my colleagues join me in thanking them for their wonderful work.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the GIVE Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER in bringing this important reauthorization to the floor.

National service builds character and communities. Volunteers in our communities help children succeed in schools, assist in providing social services, green our communities and rebuild after disasters. And the volunteers gain valuable experience and the satisfaction of having made a real difference.

H.R. 5563 strengthens national service opportunities by recruiting 25,000 more volunteers through a new Office of Outreach and Recruitment. This office will promote the recruitment of babyboomers and veterans. The bill also provides a new focus on youth opportunities. Too many youth in our communities are without positive activities during the summer. H.R. 5563 offers summer service opportunities, including a \$500 educational award for college expenses.

Volunteerism is also an important part of emergency preparedness efforts. This bill encourages more collaboration with national, state, and local units of government and creates a "Reserve Corps" of Americorps alumni for times of national need.

With the many challenges facing the United States—both at home and abroad—it is more important than ever that we provide incentives and opportunities for Americans to give back. We saw the best of ourselves in the outpouring of volunteers after 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the bridge collapse in Minneapolis. Reauthorization of the Corporation of National Service will provide that kind of help for families and communities on an ongoing basis in a very cost-effective way.

This is a bipartisan, widely supported bill. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC SPENDING: EFFECTS ON JOB CREATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, last week's report of the February jobs figures—a net loss of 63,000 jobs—is yet another sign that we need to act to spur employment. We need to stimulate the economy and to create the good jobs that will help working families across the country achieve the American dream.

I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to a recent study that gives us new information on how to achieve that goal. The study, completed by economists at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, evaluates the economic relationship between public spending and job creation. The study, "The U.S. Employment Effect of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities," concludes that public dollars invested in health care, education, mass transit or construction for home weatherization and infrastructure create more jobs than investing an equivalent amount in either military or personal consumption through tax cuts.

The study evaluates the relative effects on job creation of investing an equivalent amount of federal dollars in three scenarios: (1) private consumption through tax cuts, (2) the military, and (3) domestic investments. This important study finds each billion dollars of federal funding would create: 10,799 jobs if spent on tax cuts designed to spur personal consumption; 8,555 jobs if allocated for military spending; 12,883 jobs if invested in health care; 17,687 jobs if invested in education; 19,795 jobs if invested in mass transit; 12,804 jobs if invested in home weatherization and infrastructure.

The bottom line is that public dollars invested in health care, education, mass transit, or construction for home weatherization and infrastructure create more jobs than investing an equivalent amount in either the military or personal consumption.

I hope that my colleagues will review this study, and I would like to thank the Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), the Institute for Policy Studies, and the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for their work in this area.

INTRODUCTION OF TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE SELECTED RESERVES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representatives STEVE BUYER, GENE TAYLOR, JEFF MILLER and 41 additional members, to introduce legislation to provide transitional health care for the Selected Reserves.

When an active duty soldier is involuntarily separated from the Army, he or she is afforded 180 days of transitional health care at no cost. Unfortunately, those soldiers who have served honorably and simply leave active duty at the end of their contractual agreement with one of the military services are not afforded transitional health care.

The brave men and women who join the ranks of our proud military deserve every consideration upon their release from active duty. This legislation provides an important measure to the servicemembers and their families as they move to civilian life. It seeks to keep the skilled military members in the Guard and Reserves.

Without our dedicated Guard and Reserves forces, it is impossible to keep the threat of terrorism at bay and sustain the Global War on Terrorism. Retaining these highly skilled men and women is paramount in maintaining