

East Lansing, Michigan. Continuing their proud history of service MSU recently won a United States Agency for International Development and the Higher Education Development Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition.

Nearly 300 applications were submitted for capacity building partnerships between U.S. colleges and universities and higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan African nations. Michigan State University is one of 40 winners that will each receive a planning grant of \$50,000.

This initiative was proposed during the Higher Education Summit for Global Development and subsequent regional summits held in Rwanda last year. It is the beginning of an ongoing campaign to assist higher education institutions in Africa.

In total, the grants will help to develop plans to address regional and national economic development priorities in Africa such as engineering, health, agriculture, environment and natural resources, science and technology, education and teacher training/preparation, and business, management and economics.

Michigan State University will partner with the University of Malawi to address critical 21st century environment and development challenges. Their project is titled "Ecosystem Services: Linking Science to Action, in Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Michigan State University on their receipt of this important grant. They are truly deserving our respect and admiration.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B. CATELL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robert B. Catell, a visionary leader in our community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Robert B. Catell was raised and educated in New York City, having earned both his Bachelor's and his Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the City College of New York. A Registered Professional Engineer, Mr. Catell also attended Columbia University's Executive Development Program and the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School.

Robert B. Catell began his career in New York's energy industry in 1958 at Brooklyn Union Gas. As the corporation evolved into the nation's fifth-largest natural gas distributor, Keyspan, Mr. Catell established himself as a leader for the corporation, guiding it through multiple transitions in a growing, competitive industry.

Robert B. Catell is now the Chairman of National Grid, U.S. following the acquisition by National Grid of Keyspan Corporation. He is also Chairman of Northeast Gas Markets, of Alberta Northeast Gas Ltd., and a member of the Board of Directors of KEYERA Energy Management Ltd.

Robert B. Catell is also a leader in securing New York's economic, educational, and cultural future. He co-chairs the Board of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership and chairs the Long Island Association. He also serves

as member of the Board of Directors/Trustees for many local organizations, including the Business Council of New York State, the Partnership for New York City, the Energy Association of New York State, the City College of New York 21st Century Foundation, and the New York City Police Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Robert B. Catell, a dynamic community leader for all of New York.

CONGRATULATING SARAH BAIRD—  
2009 ARIZONA TEACHER OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sarah Baird on being honored as the 2009 Arizona Teacher of the Year. Sarah is a math teacher at Kyrene de las Lomas and Kyrene del Milenio elementary schools in Phoenix, Arizona where she teaches in nearly 60 classrooms at the two schools, with kids ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Sarah started down her chosen path when she drove to Northern Arizona University and became the first person in her family to attend college. She graduated in 2½ years with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and later went on to receive a master's degree in early child education, also from NAU.

For Sarah, teaching is all about helping students find the same potential that a teacher once helped her find in herself, and she works tirelessly to ensure that her students have the opportunity to fulfill their full potential. Besides instructing math, Sarah also educates her fellow teachers in ways to make their lessons more easily understood by students.

The Arizona Teacher of the Year program is a statewide program that spotlights the many contributions of Arizona's teachers. The program annually recognizes exceptionally skilled and dedicated teachers in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public schools. Those who are honored, like Sarah, play an active and useful role in their communities as well as their schools. They also show an exceptional ability to help their students achieve. I know she will represent our state well in the National Teacher of the Year Program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Sarah Baird on being honored as the 2009 Arizona Teacher of the Year. Her incredible dedication to her students and her community should be an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE DELAWARE  
AUTISM PROGRAM

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Delaware Autism Program as it celebrates its 30th anniversary in the State of Delaware. The Delaware Autism Program currently serves approximately 700 students

statewide in six approved centers and operates at more than 30 community-based sites with the support of more than 400 staff members.

Designed in 1978 through the collaboration of state legislators and parents of children with autism, the Delaware Autism Program (DAP) offers valuable services to both students and families. DAP seeks, in its core components, to provide access to respite for parents of children with autism, residential support through the public school system, and community and vocational training and support. Along with the dedication to providing students with the best educational services in the nation, these have established DAP as a significant and invaluable resource for Delaware's Autism community.

Since its inception, DAP has been a leader in autism education. The development of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), an educational tool now recognized worldwide for its initiation component of communication, was pioneered at DAP in 1985. The Brennen School in Newark, along with other DAP sites, has proven itself a leader in the implementation of evidence-based best practices in education for students with autism, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) interventions. Over the past 30 years, DAP has continued to grow and expand; in the past decade alone, the number of school districts hosting the program and the number of students and staff have doubled. With a continuum of educational settings ranging from separate schools, to community-based preschools, to inclusive settings in general education classrooms, the Delaware Autism Program has done and continues to do our great state of Delaware an immeasurable service.

On this 30th Anniversary, I would like to recognize the unequalled devotion of the Delaware Autism Program staff and the ongoing support of their parent community and host districts. Since 1978, DAP staff have given their time, their energy, and their hearts in the support and education of students and their families. I commend the Delaware Autism Program for its tireless dedication and I look forward to its continued success in serving this special group of students and their families.

HONORING MR. CHARLES Q. "C.Q."  
SMITH

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of Mr. Charles Q. "C.Q." Smith. Mr. Smith has devoted a lifetime to the development and nurturing of young citizens and future leaders, as the scoutmaster of Scout Troop 127.

CQ Smith entered the world of Cub Scouting in 1948 at the age of 9, joining Cub Scout Pack 127. At the age of 11, he crossed over to Boy Scouting with Troop 127, and by age 13 he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with one Eagle Palm. His commitment to attaining this rank in such a short period of time is a tribute to his determined passion to achieve and succeed in life.

Following his graduation from Lafayette College in 1961 with the highest honors and a

long list of academic and social accomplishments, Mr. Smith completed a graduate degree from the University of Chicago in 1963. This was followed immediately by active military service in Germany where he formed Boy Scout Troop 444, which soon became the largest and most active Scout Troop in the Transatlantic Council.

For 55 years of his adult life, Charles, has been an inspiration to hundreds of young men who have come to know and revere him as a caring and motivating mentor. He has instilled in each of them traits of character, citizenship, fitness of mind and body, and a full appreciation for the outdoors.

Serving with distinction as Scoutmaster for Troop 127 for 25 of its 90 years, Mr. Smith has led his Troop to all of the high adventure destinations that Scouting has to offer, as well as participating in National and World Jamborees. He has also provided his scouts with experiences in some of the finest natural environments in this region and across the World.

Through all of his endeavors, Mr. Smith's accomplishments, be they educational, spiritual, or professional, stand as models for all Scouts and Scouters to admire. For these reasons I congratulate Charles Q "C.Q." Smith for all that he has done to better our community and nation as a whole.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL FRED  
WOMACK USAF (RET.)

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Major General Fred Womack USAF (Ret.) of Loudon County, Tennessee has been inducted into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame. He is one of the finest members of the Armed Forces I know, and I cannot think of anyone who deserves this honor more.

As a boy, the future Major General loved to build model airplanes and looked skyward with awe and envy as military planes flew in formation overhead. He vowed to one day be one of those pilots. But flying did not come easy. Like every great American story, his dream was realized only after overcoming many obstacles which would have led most men to simply give up.

Because he needed a degree to get into the U.S. Air Force pilot training program, Major General Womack enlisted in the Air National Guard while simultaneously pursuing a college degree. After earning a degree in business, Major General Womack applied for the U.S. Air Force pilot training program; unfortunately, he failed several times to make the minimum weight requirement. His dream was slipping away.

As fate would have it, the Berlin Air Lift called him to service in Germany. While overseas, he hired a pilot instructor and took his first flying lesson.

When he returned from Germany, Major General Womack gained enough weight for acceptance into the U.S. Air Force pilot training program, but another obstacle stood in his way. He was now past the 26-year-old cutoff age for acceptance. It was only through the foresight of Major General/Commander Robert Akin—who issued him a waiver—that Major

General Womack finally realized his dream of attending the U.S. Air Force pilot training program.

His love of flight led him to two simultaneous careers, both of which he took to the pinnacle of success.

As an airline pilot for Piedmont Airlines, he went from flying a Martin 404 prop plane to Boeing 767s. He eventually became the airline's Flight Operations and Flying Safety Director and was Chairman of the Air Transport Association Flight Integration Committee. He also served as the project manager for the Traffic Alert Collision Avoidance System for the entire airline industry, technology which is still in use today and that has undoubtedly saved many lives.

While achieving success as a civilian pilot, Major General Womack was also making a name for himself in the Tennessee Air National Guard. As Commander of the 134th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, he achieved an unparalleled safety record. His diligence and devotion to safety as a pilot and commander led him to eventually become the Commander of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Major General Womack is an example of the opportunities available only in America and a testimony to commitment, patience, and sacrifice. Throughout his careers, Major General Womack says he never felt like he worked a day. We should all be that lucky.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call the accomplishments of Major General Fred Womack and his induction into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

CONGRATULATING ELEANOR  
KERRIGAN, THE 2009 WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR OF THE LACKAWANNA  
COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC  
WOMEN

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Eleanor Kerrigan, of Luzerne Street in Scranton, Pennsylvania, upon the occasion of being named as 2009 Woman of the Year by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

Ms. Kerrigan has distinguished herself for many years as a tireless advocate for her family, her church, several charitable organizations and for Democratic candidates for public office.

A daughter of the late Carmel McPhillips and Jerome McDonald, Ms. Kerrigan has five sisters, Carmel Cunningham, Patricia Ward, Madelon Williams, Barbara Harding and Catherine Flynn; one brother, Michael McDonald, and 19 nieces and nephews.

She is currently employed as Lackawanna County Deputy Recorder of Deeds. Previously, she worked for the Lackawanna County Bureau of Elections and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Revenue, both in Scranton. She also worked for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Elections in Harrisburg during the administration of the late Gov. Robert P. Casey.

Ms. Kerrigan is a member and past president of the Holy Cross Church Men's and Women's Society in West Scranton where she was instrumental in raising funds for church renovation projects.

For more than 30 years, she has been a member at St. Joseph's Center in Dunmore, which is devoted to helping those who are mentally and physically challenged. She also served as president of the St. Joseph's Center for two years and is a member of the St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary Board.

For nearly 40 years, Ms. Kerrigan has been highly active with the Scranton City and Lackawanna County Democrat organizations. For several years, she served as Chairwoman of the Scranton Democrats and she is currently the Treasurer of the Lackawanna County Democrats.

Ms. Kerrigan is a member of the Society of Irish Women, an organization that fosters education and cultural awareness of those with Irish heritage.

For many years, she has been a devoted member of the Race for the Cure Committee, an organization dedicated to eradicating the scourge of cancer.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Eleanor Kerrigan on this auspicious occasion. Her selfless service to so many worthy causes is an inspiration to others and has earned her widespread respect and admiration. Her selection as Woman of the Year by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women is entirely fitting and well deserved.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BOTTLLE  
RECYCLING CLIMATE PROTECTION  
ACT OF 2009

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today, on Earth Day, I am re-introducing the Bottle Recycling Climate Protection Act of 2009, which would create a national beverage container recycling program. This national Bottle Bill would build on the success of existing state bottle laws and promote recycling by offering a 5 cent deposit on beverage containers, including plastic water bottles that have become more prevalent in recent years. Recycling these products saves energy and money, cuts global warming pollution, and reduces landfill waste.

Twenty-seven years ago, my state of Massachusetts became one of the first states to adopt a state bottle law in order to encourage the recycling of cans and bottles. Since its inception, Massachusetts' bottle law has been a tremendous success. In 2006, over 2 billion beverage containers were sold in Massachusetts and nearly 70 percent of them were recycled rather than littered or incinerated.

Recycling and reusing these bottles not only reduces the amount of trash that ends up in our landfills, it also dramatically reduces the amount of global warming pollution that ends up in our atmosphere. American consumers purchase nearly 600 million beverage bottles and cans, on average, every day. Roughly 385 million of them are landfilled, incinerated or littered. Nine of ten plastic water bottles end