

Clearly, Ottawa Township High School offers its students and community many outstanding music education opportunities. Currently, 270 students take advantage of these opportunities by participating in Concert Choir, Treble Choir, Freshman Girls Choir, Symphonic Band, Jazz Choir, and Jazz Band.

Special congratulations must be offered to Mr. Roger Amm, Vocal Music Director, and to Ms. Sarah Reckmeyer, Director of Bands. Their hard work, commitment, and leadership have undoubtedly played a major role in building the statewide dominance of Ottawa Township High School's Music Department.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am proud and pleased to be able to offer to my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives the example of Ottawa Township High School as an educational institution where excellence in the fine arts is strongly encouraged. From its outstanding music program to its incredible, multi-million-dollar collection of artwork on display throughout the school building to its vibrant 25 year old annual music festival, Ottawa Township High School provides its fortunate students with an all too rare appreciation of the fine arts.

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#### REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF OUR SELECTED RESERVISTS

#### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the activation and deployment of uniformed service members to the Balkans area has generated numerous inquiries about the reemployment rights of members of the National Guard and Reserves who are required to leave a position of employment to answer a call to duty.

I hope the following explanation will provide all of my colleagues some basic information on the law that provides these rights and guidance on what a constituent who might contact you concerning this issue can do to receive more information and assistance.

The job entitlements of our citizen-soldiers are provided by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) of 1994, at 38 U.S. Code, Section 4310-4333. The Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) of the Department of Labor administers and enforces USERRA.

USERRA provides that a person be promptly reemployed following completion of qualifying military service. The position to which the person is entitled is essentially the position he or she would have attained had the military absence not occurred. To be eligible for reemployment rights, the person must generally give the employer prior notice of the military duty and the employee must have received a discharge from the military that is not punitive in nature. For example, an honorable discharge would qualify, but not a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge. There is a cumulative 5-year limit of military service after which an employer is not obliged to reemploy a returning service member. There are important

exceptions to the 5-year limit, including voluntary duty in support of an emergency situation or war, involuntary callups for operational missions or contingencies, and required training of National Guard and Reserve members.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) maintains a website on the Internet that contains USERRA information designed to help protected persons and employers understand the law. The "USERRA Advisor" can be found on the VETS home page at [www.dol.gov/dol/vets](http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets). VETS also has offices in each of the States that can provide information and assistance for your constituents as well as your District office staff members. VETS offices are listed in the Blue Pages of local telephone directories under the U.S. Department of Labor.

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#### CONGRATULATING THE ANNAPOLIS (MD) CAPITAL FOR BEING NAMED "NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR"

#### HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Maryland's finest newspapers, the Annapolis Capital. The Capital was recently named "Newspaper of the Year" by the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association. This prestigious award goes to the newspaper which has received the most awards for any newspaper in its category, and this year, Mr. Speaker, the Capital was honored with 22 separate awards for outstanding work.

Under the leadership of their executive editor, Edward D. Casey, the staff at the Capital collected 21 awards for photos, articles, page designs, and graphics published in 1998. These awards are given by their peers, Mr. Speaker, and the message this year was loud and clear: The Capital consistently delivers a quality product with outstanding coverage of its community.

Among the award winners was Eric Smith, the Capital's own talented editorial cartoonist. He won first place for an editorial cartoon which I am happy to report, Mr. Speaker, was not about me. Mr. Smith spent a day with me in Washington several years ago to find out what members of Congress do on a daily basis, and I'm happy to report, has not given up his day job yet. Mr. Smith also won second place for a column he wrote.

David Brown won first place for spot news for a story he wrote on a Navy flier from Annapolis who was killed on an aircraft carrier. Nicole Gaudio won second place for spot news for a story on a shooting death. Christopher Munsey captured second place for general news for his story on a body police could not identify.

The staff as a whole won second place for continuing coverage on the Whitbread Race, the prestigious yacht race which came to An-

napolis last year. Staff members that shared that award included: Bill Wagner, Jeff Nelson, Scott Haring, Christopher Munsey, Denise Murray, Kristin Hussey, Gerry Jackson, David Trozza, George N. Lundskow, Bob Gilbert, Mark M. Odell, and Christopher B. Corder.

Reporter Jeff Nelson won first place for investigative reporting for his story on bonuses given to county employees. Sara Marsh won second place in this category for her probe of the legal problems of an election candidate.

Mary Allen won first place in state government reporting for her story on the law that allowed the marriage of a 13-year-old girl. Theresa Winslow won second place in the public service category for her consumer story on the cost of funerals.

In the photography category, the Capital has consistently delivered its readers some of the most beautiful photographs capturing incredible joy sorrow and every moment in between. Bob Gilbert won second place for a photo series of a heart transplant operation. David Trozzo won first place for general news photo with a photo depicting a tribute to a shooting victim. Christopher B. Corder won first place for sports photo with a photo of a baseball play.

John McNamara won second place for a sports column, and Mary Grace Gallagher won first place for a medical/science story on a heart transplant. She also captured second place for business/economic news for a story on choosing new employees.

The staff won first place for Page One design for a Sunday Capital layout of a heart transplant patient. That award was shared by Scott and Loretta Haring, Denise Murray, Bob Gilbert, and Mary Grace Gallagher. Scott Haring also won first place for feature/news page design for his layout of the Naval Academy graduation.

Andra Baumgardt won second place for feature/news page design for her layout of an Entertainment cover featuring the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra. And Denise Murray won second place for information graphics/general for her graphic on Inner West Street.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, The Capital was awarded the first-ever "Freedom of Information Award" by the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association. This award was given to the newspaper for its diligence and persistence in seeking the truth. The Capital, with the leadership of Managing Editor Tom Marquardt, has a long history of holding public officials accountable to the voters they represent, and it's a tradition I respect. Newspapers have an obligation to inform the public of the activities of their public officials, and I'm glad the Capital takes its obligation seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the great city of Annapolis in Congress, and I am equally proud that my Congressional District is served so well by an outstanding newspaper that has received overdue recognition from its peers. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Annapolis Capital on being named the 1998 Newspaper of the Year by the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association.