

leaders from fields in politics, academia and various other civic fields, held a meeting about the increasing use of media and technology by campaigns to manipulate information, and the citizen's diminishing access to dependable, abundant information on issues and political candidates.

That meeting gave birth to Project Vote Smart (PVS), a small 501(c)(3) now engulfed in its own success. In the beginning the idea seemed simple: use young people from throughout the country to collect millions of documented facts about issues, candidates and other pertinent information about politics; index the information and then categorize it so that citizens could easily access the information through local libraries, toll-free hot lines, the internet and published reports.

Specifically, the Project is in a national library of factual information on over 40,000 candidates and incumbents in public office—all presidential, congressional, gubernatorial, state legislative seats, county, and local candidates and incumbents. They are researched in five basic areas: backgrounds, voting records, campaign finances, performance evaluations by over 100 conservative to liberal special interests, and campaign issue positions on the issues they will likely have to deal with if elected.

Project Vote Smart does not lobby, support or oppose any candidate or cause, and does not accept financial support from any organization that does—it is supported entirely by philanthropic foundations and the individual contributions of over 45,000 members. Election-year programs are sponsored by over 4,000 public libraries and hundreds of national and local news organizations. National leaders are not allowed to join the founding board without a political opposite—founding board members are national leaders as diverse as Goldwater and McGovern, Carter and Ford, Hatfield and Ferraro, Gingrich and Dukakis. PVS is staffed by volunteers, interns and a small staff paid only minimal salaries. They are conservatives and liberals of various parties who have volunteered for up to two years in order to help citizens get the facts about candidates instead of just the rhetoric.

TRIBUTE TO 2001 LEGRAND SMITH
SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is a sincere pleasure to recognize the finalists of the 2001 LeGrand Smith Scholarship Program. This special honor is an appropriate tribute to the academic accomplishment, demonstration of leadership and responsibility, and commitment to social involvement displayed by these remarkable young adults. We all have reason to celebrate their success, for it is in their promising and capable hands that our future rests:

Brian Anderson of Lansing, Michigan; Nicole Beil of Tecumseh, Michigan; Leah Brady, of Battle Creek, Michigan; Jeremy Connin of Jackson, Michigan; Lindsay Elliott of Pittsford, Michigan; Calby Garrison, of Onsted, Michigan; Aaron Heinen of Battle Creek, Michigan; Sarah Holliday of Hillsdale, Michigan; Stephanie Lallemand of Battle Creek, Michigan;

Tabbatha McLain of Quincy, Michigan; Molly Miller of Marshall, Michigan; Jessica Muterspaugh of Spring Arbor, Michigan; Teresa Reinker of Horton, Michigan; Adam Shissler of Jackson, Michigan; Anna Vanderstelt of Charlotte, Michigan; and Randi Wigent of Reading, Michigan.

The finalists of the LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program are being honored for showing that same generosity of spirit, depth of intelligence, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan. They are young men and women of character, ambition, and initiative, who have already learned well the value of hard work, discipline, and commitment.

These exceptional students have consistently displayed their dedication, intelligence, and concern throughout their high school experience. They are people who stand out among their peers due to their many achievements and the disciplined manner in which they meet challenges. While they have already accomplished a great deal, these young people possess unlimited potential, for they have learned the keys to success in any endeavor. I am proud to join with their many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to the finalists of the 2001 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SERGEANT RON PACKARD, OFFICER
JOE REIS AND OFFICER
JOHN NYIKES OF THE UNION
CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2001, the Union City Police Department will celebrate the retirement of three of its finest officers, Sergeant Ron Packard, Officer Joe Reis and Officer John Nyikes.

Sergeant Ron Packard began his law enforcement career with the Union City Police Department on November 1, 1968. His first assignment was undercover at a local high school, posing as a student. During the day, he attended classes with the intention of identifying sales and distribution of illegal drugs on campus. In the evenings, he completed class homework assignments and police reports. Sergeant Packard progressed in his career and was promoted from Officer to Sergeant on January 16, 1974. He has served as a Firearms Instructor and Range Master, SWAT member, and has supervised a number of divisions, including Traffic Investigations and Patrol. Sergeant Packard was instrumental in developing the Union City Police Department's current Canine Program and is currently the Canine Program Manager. During his off-duty hours, Sergeant Packard enjoys participating in local and international Police and Fire Olympic Games, and is the recipient of numerous silver and gold medals in archery.

Officer Joe Reis, President of the Union City Police Officers Association, began his career in law enforcement on December 16, 1974.

During his tenure with the Union City Police Department, Officer Reis worked as a Field Training Officer for ten years. He was responsible for training new Police Officers in Union City and assisted in developing a Recruit Training Manual for the Department. Officer Reiss continued his enthusiasm for teaching by becoming the instructor of "Introduction of Administration of Justice" at James Logan High School for five years. In addition, Officer Reis was one of the Department's Firearms Instructors for nineteen years and was assigned as the Court Liaison Officer with the District Attorney's Office for four years. For the past eight years, Officer Reis has served on an assignment he considers the most rewarding, as a D.A.R.E. officer working with the New Haven Unified School District.

Officer John Nyikes began his career in law enforcement as a Detroit Police Officer for eight years where he was awarded a meritorious citation. He was hired by the Union City Police Department on July 2, 1980. While assigned Patrol duties with the Department, Officer Nyikes worked as a Field Training Officer and was responsible for training new police officers in Union City. Officer Nyikes was transferred from the Patrol Division to the Investigations Division where he has received many letters of commendation for his teamwork and clearances of crimes ranging from homicides to arson, and recovery of stolen property.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Sergeant Packard and Officers Reis and Nyikes in commending them for their many years of dedicated and exemplary service to law enforcement. They have left their indelible mark of excellence on the Union City Police Department.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LANSING, MI,
FOR "HIGH GROWTH" STATUS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the City of Lansing, Michigan, for having been named one of the top five cities in its population category for high-growth companies. The National Commission on Entrepreneurship released a study on High Growth Companies this week. This study was the first of its kind and examined entrepreneurial-growth companies in communities across the country.

Surprisingly to some, but not to the people of Michigan, the report found that the bulk of high-growth companies in the past ten years are not in "high tech" areas, but are instead found in the industrial sectors of America.

High-Growth status is achieved by few companies. It is given only to those that have attained a 15% employment growth per year for 5 years or 100% employment growth over 5 years.

Among the communities recognized for High-Growth is the City of Lansing, Michigan, located in the 8th Congressional District, in the heart of Michigan and the greater Mid-west. Since 1996, the city of Lansing has generated