

from New York's criminal underworld to its street gangs.

Gottehrer's efforts to keep New York's disparate and sometimes warring factions from turning the city into chaos are chronicled in his 1975 book, "The Mayor's Man." He summed up his work this way: ". . . during those feverish days of the 1960s and early 1970s when hundreds of our cities went up in flames, when rebellion and disorder swept through our streets, our public schools, our college campuses . . . when the very fabric of our country seemed ready to shred, I was the Mayor's Man at the brink of this revolution—a white in a world of black and brown, a moderate in a world of revolutionaries, trying to bring change where change seemed needed most, trying to buy time until the change would come."

After feeling his power to affect change had reached its limit, Barry Gottehrer left New York's City Hall and went on to work in government affairs roles in New York and Washington, DC. His legacy lives on in his books and in the memory of those who marveled at his daring belief that working for good was not impossible. I was honored to have met Barry after coming to Congress and I will always be grateful for our friendship.

RECOGNIZING JEFFERY WEHR, AN
"AMERICAN STAR OF TEACHING"

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the community of Odessa, Washington in celebrating the accomplishments of Jeffrey Wehr. Today, the U.S. Department of Education is recognizing Mr. Wehr as an American Star of Teaching for his work as the science teacher at Odessa High School.

Mr. Wehr is known for being an exceptional motivator, challenging students daily to think and achieve at their highest levels. During his time as a teacher, he has increased enrollment in science courses and has inspired students to rethink how they view science. His students have also received numerous awards in science research and have dramatically improved their science scores on State assessments. It is important we have teachers like Mr. Wehr to train this country's next generation of scientists and engineers so we can remain competitive in a global marketplace.

Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to join with the U.S. Department of Education in recognizing his passion, dedication, and commitment to helping our students achieve their full potential. I commend Mr. Wehr for emphasizing the importance of receiving a science education. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Wehr on this outstanding achievement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN SEIBERLING

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the family and friends of Congressman John Seiberling and to pay tribute to his work here in the Congress. Congressman Seiberling passed away on August 2, 2008, at the age of 89.

John represented Ohio's 14th Congressional District, the district just north of the one I represent, from 1971 through 1987. He was an active member of the House Resources Committee and worked on a number of natural resource and environmental issues through this assignment. He cared deeply about the preservation of our national heritage and protecting the natural environment. He carried out these priorities through his work on the committee, but one effort in particular stands out as a legacy for the people of northeast Ohio.

As an innovator when it came to protecting natural resources and open space, John introduced legislation that would create a 33,000-acre national recreation area between the two population centers of Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. He asked me to serve as his partner as the Republican cosponsor of the legislation. We worked together to pass the bill, and on December 27, 1974, with President Gerald Ford's signature, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was established.

Today, this area, now the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, is one of the most frequently visited national parks within the entire national park system and serves as a respite to the residents of the densely populated cities of Cleveland and Akron and their surrounding suburbs, as well as many national park visitors from other States.

John's innovation and vision in understanding that people thirst for open spaces in their communities brought about the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Today it is a gift to the people of northeast Ohio and a true legacy of his work.

We are grateful for John's life and accomplishments and wish his family, especially his wife, Betty, who was his inspiring supporter, peace with his passing.

HONORING BRANDON MATSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Matson of Blue Springs, Missouri. Brandon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1058, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities.

Over the many years Brandon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Matson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today, I introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs Energy Sustainability Act of 2008, to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, a strategic plan for energy sustainability and an Office of Energy Management. As our country looks to a new energy future, I believe it is vitally important to encourage smart energy use and take steps to become more aware of how we spend our money for our energy. The office would be under the direction of a Deputy Assistant Secretary, who would report to the Assistant Secretary for Management. The bill would also create an Energy Advisory Committee consisting of VA officials and private sector experts on energy management. Disabled veterans would also receive increased specially adaptive housing and auto grants for energy efficient systems and vehicles.

The Office of Energy Management, with the advice and recommendations of the Energy Advisory Committee, would be responsible for helping VA meet a number of specific goals such as compliance with Presidential Order 13423, VA Directive 0055, and formulating long term, sustainable energy plans for VA. The office would also establish a database to track VA's energy and water consumption. The bill would authorize the office to directly utilize the expertise of national laboratories, such as those at Lawrence Livermore and Oakridge.

Addressing our Nation's energy problem calls for multi-faceted solutions—including alternative fuels. My bill would authorize the installation of alternative fuel stations at VA facilities, and require a feasibility study regarding the installation of energy efficient and renewable energy systems in Department buildings. Such systems include solar technologies and energy efficient roof and building envelope systems that might utilize ballasted or vegetated roof systems.

In an effort to assist our Nation's veterans in their efforts to become more energy efficient, my bill would provide an additional amount of up to \$10,000 for high efficiency systems for veterans who qualify for specially adaptive housing grants under section 2101 (a)(2) of title 38, United States Code. Additionally, it would provide veterans who qualify for a specially adapted auto grant, under section 3902(a) of title 38, United States Code, the additional amount necessary to purchase alternative fuel vehicles.