

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2006 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from May 21–June 3 of this year. During this two-week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag Member during a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for two weeks July 9–22. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Members of Congress. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in

July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HB–28, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15.

2006 ACHIEVING CAO EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rob von Gogh, Charlene Best, Ron Carrico, Chantel Greene, Matt Guilfoyle, and Tina Hanonu on their extraordinary achievements in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, (CAO) supporting the United States House of Representatives and their receipt of the 2006 Achieving CAO Excellence (ACE) Awards. The 2006 CAO ACE Excellence Awards acknowledge the extraordinary efforts made by these members of the CAO team. These awards exemplify the goals, values, and mission of the organization. Considered to be among the highest honors awarded to CAO staff, at the heart of these awards are customer service, commitment to delivery solutions, and high standards of excellence.

Recipients of the 2006 CAO ACE Excellence Awards represent many areas of the CAO and perform a variety of jobs. Whether working directly with customers, supporting CAO internal operations, or ensuring the technical infrastructure is operational, each serves as an exemplary role model for the entire CAO community. Collectively and individually they delivered solutions that fulfilled the CAO customer experience, ensuring full satisfaction for their customers and colleagues.

Employees nominated for an award must be in full-time status, have received at least one PACE evaluation, and have a current performance rating of excelling. Nominations for the awards are submitted by managers, supervisors, deputies and associate administrators. The nominees are then reviewed by a committee comprised of the head of each CAO business unit, the deputy CAO for operations, the deputy CAO for strategy, the administrative counsel, and other members of the CAO team.

Rob von Gogh was selected for the "CAO Excellence" award. In his role directing the CAO client services team and serving on the CAO leadership group, he has been a role model CAO employee who lives the CAO mission, vision, values, and delivers the CAO customer experience to all his customers, colleagues and employees.

Charlene Best is the 2006 recipient of the "Knowledge" award for being an employee who is dependable and gets things done across the organization by leveraging a wide range of CAO resources. Her ability to set-up and establish office space for the new House Historian in a seamless manner demonstrates her unique understanding of the House community.

Ron Carrico was chosen for the "Personalized Solutions" award. He developed a product for the CAO that met current needs and incorporated the structure for future integrations with other enterprise system solutions that are being developed in the CAO for the House Community, specifically: MicroStrategy 8, Administrative Tools, Links and Solutions—Atlas, Lawson and the Customer Solution Delivery Model. This solution will provide the capability to report "near real time" performance measures. His consistently passionate customer service, effective communication, and problem solving enable customers to meet their professional and personal roles.

Chantel Greene was selected for the "Dedicated" award for exhibiting commitment to achieving the mission of the CAO. Through adversity, Chantel was able to lead others, build consensus and live the CAO customer experience. Her positive attitude is an inspiration to others and it is the key to her success.

Matt Guilfoyle is the recipient of the "One Team" award. He is relentless in his efforts and commitment to developing the CAO customer experience. The essence of his hard work and dedication to bring the CAO together was evidenced in the success of CAOne. He consistently and significantly contributes to the CAO team as a whole, bringing the CAO customer experience to life.

Tina Hanonu was chosen for the "Simplify the Day" award. Her ability to improve CAO client services procedures during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita enabled the CAO to provide reassurance and sustain service for district offices affected by the hurricanes. Tina's energy, drive, and enthusiasm enabled the House Recovery Operations Center to support and achieve results during such demanding times.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Rob von Gogh, Charlene Best, Ron Carrico, Chantel Greene, Matt Guilfoyle, and Tina Hanonu for their tireless efforts and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish them continued success in their job endeavors.

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.