

Press Release

For immediate release
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1992 Freedom of Information Award

The Minnesotan honored by the 1992 **John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award** is Alan Robinette, for his vision, leadership, and professionalism in the management of government information.

Alan Robinette, who passed away in January of this year, was the first director of the Minnesota Land Management Information Center (LMIC). Under Alan Robinette's direction since 1974, LMIC became widely known for innovation in the use of computerized geographic information. Alan Robinette was recognized and respected by his colleagues as a trailblazer in the field of geographic information and as a dedicated public servant who created a climate among his staff to support availability of information to the public.

The Minnesota Coalition on Government Information sponsors the award annually to honor a Minnesotan who works to create a climate of access through policies and practices that reflect a commitment to freedom of information.

The award is named for John R. Finnegan, former senior vice president and assistant publisher of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, for his dedication to openness in government and work on behalf of the people's right to know.

Freedom of Information Day is celebrated each year on the anniversary of the birth of James A. Madison, fourth president of the United States and main author of the Bill of Rights.

This is the fourth annual presentation of the award. Previous recipients were retired Chief Justice Peter S. Popovich (1991), Sue Holbert, former State Archivist, Minnesota Historical Society (1990) and Mary Alice Harvey, Director of the Grand Marais Public Library (1989).

The **Minnesota Coalition on Government Information** is a network of individuals and organizations concerned with access to information and the role that the State plays in ensuring that access. The Minnesota Coalition is based on a National Coalition of organizations concerned with stemming the trend toward less public access to government information.