

Minnesota Coalition on Government Information

PRESS RELEASE

For additional information

contact: 612/224-4801

1993 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY

The Minnesotan honored by the 1993 **John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award** is Julia Fillmore Wallace. As Government Publications Library and Regional Depository Librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries she administers the largest research collection of government publications in the Upper Midwest, including depository collections of the United States, United Nations and European Community, Canada, Minnesota state and regional governments, intergovernmental organizations and other state and foreign government. An acknowledged leader, she is the chair of the Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association.

Julia Wallace is an ardent advocate for the public's access to government information. She has worked relentlessly so that this information remains public and abundantly available to all citizens. Her active pursuit of "free information for all people" includes numerous publications and presentations and strong leadership in national, state and regional organizations.

The Award will be presented at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda at noon, Tuesday, March 16, 1993. This event is free and open to the public and will feature a musical presentation by Bob Thomas of Rainbow Productions.

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*, in recognition of 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 principal author of the Bill of Rights.

This is the fifth annual presentation of the award. Previous recipients are the late Alan Robinette, former director of the State of Minnesota's Land Management Information Center (1992), retired Chief Justice Peter S. Popovich (1991), Sue Hoibert, former State Archivist, Minnesota Historical Society (1990) and Mary Alice Harvey, retired 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 committed to open and just access to information by and about the government.

Freedom of Information Day activities conclude with a Metronet sponsored "WineDown" featuring Donald Gemberling, Director of the Public Information Policy Analysis Division of the Minnesota Information Policy Office. Mr. Gemberling will speak on critical government information policies related to balancing the rights of individuals to privacy with the public's right to know. Reservations are required for the "WineDown" which will be held at the Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Constitution Avenue. (\$5 at the door) Call 612/224-4801 for reservations.

Individuals and Institutions Committed to Open and Just Access to Information