

Press Release

For immediate release

For further information contact : Eileen C. McCormack (651) 296-1415

1999 Freedom of Information Award Recipient Announced

Mary Treacy is the 1999 recipient of the John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award. The award will be presented at a ceremony at 12:30 PM in Room G-40 of the Minnesota Judicial Center on Tuesday, March 16, 1999, Freedom of Information Day. The Minnesota Judicial Center is located at 25 Constitution Avenue, St. Paul, MN.

Mary Treacy is recognized for her constant and creative vigilance over the people's right to access all forms of information. For 18 years she has directed Metronet, the metropolitan multi-type library organization. She is leaving Minnesota at the end of the month to become the supervisor of libraries for the new women's college in the United Arab Emirates. Among the many projects supported by Mary Treacy's leadership are the Minnesota Center for the Book, the "Northern Lights" Minnesota authors interview series and the "Minnesota Reads" literacy project.

Freedom of Information Day is celebrated each year on the anniversary of the birth of James Madison, fourth president of the United States and the principal author of the Bill of Rights. 1999 is the 11th year the Coalition on Government Information has presented the award.

The Minnesota Coalition of Government Information is modeled on a national coalition initiated in 1986 by the American Library Association. Members of the Minnesota Coalition include librarians, media and computer professionals, lawyers, community activists, educators and others.

The award is named for John R. Finnegan, retired senior vice-president of the St. Paul Pioneer Press and chair of the Minnesota Joint Media Committee, for his dedication to openness in government and his work on behalf of the people's right to know. Mr. Finnegan will speak at the award presentation ceremony. The award will be presented to Mary Treacy by Marvin Roger Anderson, director of the Supreme Court Library.