COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

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Retired Star Tribune columnist Lori Sturdevant receives Friend of the CGMC Award

ST. PAUL— Retired Star Tribune editorial writer and columnist Lori Sturdevant received the "Friend of the CGMC" Award from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 29 during the Coalition's summer conference in Alexandria. The Friend of the CGMC Award recognizes individuals and organizations that have helped advance the interests of Greater Minnesota.

Over the course of her 40-year career at the Star Tribune, Sturdevant used her platform as a reporter and columnist to draw attention to critical issues that impact communities across Minnesota. While many statewide news outlets tend to be metro-centric, Sturdevant often wrote about issues that are especially important to Greater Minnesota, such as Local Government Aid and broadband expansion. She developed strong relationships with Greater Minnesota leaders and regularly reached out to city officials and CGMC staff members to get the rural perspective a variety of topics. As a journalist, Sturdevant was unafraid to take lawmakers and other political leaders to task, yet she managed to maintain their respect through her thorough, accurate and fair reporting. In addition, she was a frequent guest speaker and panelist at CGMC conferences and events, where she shared her extensive knowledge of Minnesota government history and her experiences in journalism.

"Lori has always recognized the importance of having strong communities all across the state," said Greg Zylka, mayor of Little Falls and president of the CGMC. "Through the years, she wrote about critical issues like LGA, broadband, local property taxes — issues that don't always generate big headlines, but that are very important to Greater Minnesota cities. Always tremendously informed and an astute observer of all the activities at the Capitol, there are very few people who know the ins and outs of Minnesota politics as well as Lori does."

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing more than 100 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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