

Dallas Safari Club and has also done anti-poaching work for black rhinoceros in Zimbabwe. Chase was also selected to represent Limestone County at the American Legion Boys State Conference in Austin, Texas.

Over the years, I have watched Chase grow up into a mature, responsible young man. He is selflessly committed to serving his local community, giving generously of his time and effort to make our world a better place. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring this fine young man. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS
JONES COLLEGE FIRE PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2136, the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act, which establishes the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones Fire Suppression Demonstration Incentive Program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems or other fire suppression or prevention technologies.

I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for their leadership in bringing this important resolution to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congressman FUDGE, who introduced this legislation in honor of our distinguished colleague Stephanie Tubbs Jones. The late Congresswoman Tubbs Jones introduced the College Fire Prevention Act in each of the last four sessions of Congress and passed a resolution regarding Campus Fire Safety Month. I am pleased that the legislation she worked so hard on is finally coming before the House.

As Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, fire prevention for students is an important issue to me. There are between 1,500 and 1,800 fires each year in college residence halls, dormitories, and sorority or fraternity houses. But when fire suppression technology is present in student housing, the chance of surviving a fire increases by 97 percent and the likelihood of property damage is 35 percent less.

H.R. 2136 establishes an incentive program within the Department of Education (DOE) that will promote the installation of fire sprinkler systems or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing or dormitories. The program will provide competitive matching grants that will fund up to half of the installation costs and priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate the greatest financial need. In addition, the legislation would reserve at least 10 percent of the funds in grant program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribally controlled colleges and universities, and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. At least 10 percent will be reserved for fraternities and sororities.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to keep our students safe. I am

pleased that Congress is taking action to promote increased safety measures in college dormitories as well as providing the funds in support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2136.

HONORING THE BIRMINGHAM
CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute as a recipient of the prestigious Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award for 2009–2011.

Fewer than ten museums in the United States are selected for the Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award and I am delighted and proud that the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, located in the Seventh Congressional District, is among the chosen. This honor is both an outstanding achievement and a source of great pride for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Birmingham community.

Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad, which is administered by the American Association of Museums (AAM) and receives financial support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, connects U.S. communities with communities abroad through innovative, museum-based projects that reflect each museum's unique collections, capabilities, and expertise. Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad increases the cultural competency of two communities and also helps museums connect with local underserved populations.

The Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award will enable the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute to partner with the Mandela House Museum in Soweto, South Africa in the development of a joint project of cultural significance. The obvious parallels between the U.S. and South Africa related to their historic struggles against malevolent systems of racial segregation and oppression make this a natural partnership.

Through this collaboration, not only will the communities of Birmingham and Soweto be united, but cultural diplomacy as a whole between the U.S. and South Africa will be strengthened. It is an honor to recognize the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for this outstanding accomplishment. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for this significant achievement.

HONORING MR. GARY SARGENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Gary Sargent. Mr. Sargent served his constituency

faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Supervisor for the Town of Charlotte.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Sargent served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Sargent is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to him today.

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR FLAG ACT
OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2546, the Blue Star/Gold Star Flag Act of 2009, which will prohibit a condominium association, cooperative association, or real estate management association from preventing a resident from displaying a military service flag on his or her property or living space. This important measure will ensure that the families of our servicemen and servicewomen have the right to honor their brave loved ones for their service to this country.

I would like to thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman BOCCIERI. I am deeply grateful to Congressman BOCCIERI for his service to this nation and I thank him for helping to ensure that no American is deprived of the opportunity to honor a family member who is courageously defending our country.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply saddened by accounts of individuals being required by condominium and apartment owners to remove the service flags flown in their windows or on their porches in honor of family members serving overseas. Every American deserves the right to honor a loved one serving in the military. Our Nation should never discourage expressions of support for its troops. Fortunately, this legislation will ensure that never again will a mother be told that she cannot honor her son or daughter, whose service fills her with pride and for whose wellbeing and safety she prays daily.

Madam Speaker, California's 37th district is home to over 24,000 veterans and hundreds of brave men and women currently enlisted in the Armed Forces, many of whom are fighting in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am forever grateful for their service and consistently work to ensure that they receive recognition for their courage and the support they need upon returning home. I stand in solidarity with their families in honoring their bravery and hoping that those who are currently deployed soon return home to be reunited with their loved ones.

With Memorial Day just over a week away it is important that we take time to honor and express our gratitude for the fallen heroes who

made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country. We must also commit ourselves to standing by the families of our brave men and women in uniform. My district has a long history of supporting military families. Long Beach is home to the Gold Star Manor, which provides affordable and quality housing to mothers who have lost sons or daughters in the service of their country. We must continue supporting the family members of our men and women in uniform and always express our gratitude for our troops' willingness to risk their lives on behalf of our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2546.

HONORING THOSE LIVING WITH
AND AFFECTED BY HUNTING-
TON'S DISEASE

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the thousands of Americans living with and affected by Huntington's disease. As you know, May is Huntington's disease awareness month. HD affects over 250,000 Americans, 117,000 in my great state of California.

According to the National Institutes of Health, NIH, "Huntington's disease results from genetically programmed degeneration of brain cells, called neurons, in certain areas of the brain. This degeneration causes uncontrolled movements, loss of intellectual faculties, and emotional disturbance. HD is a familial disease, passed from parent to child through a mutation in the normal gene. Each child of an HD parent has a 50–50 chance of inheriting the HD gene. If a child does not inherit the HD gene, he or she will not develop the disease and cannot pass it to subsequent generations. A person who inherits the HD gene will sooner or later develop the disease. As a Cochair of the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support efforts by the NIH to eradicate this horrible condition.

Not only are people with HD living with constant discomfort, they are also shortchanged when it comes to receiving social security disability benefits. Individuals living with HD are continually denied disability social security benefits because of outdated medical guidelines that require a 2-year waiting period before the accrual of benefits can begin. These fine Americans have paid into the system and they should have access to these benefits. For most people a 2-year wait is nothing, for patients suffering with HD it is a death sentence.

In an effort to end this discrimination, I have joined with my colleague BOB FILNER (D-CA) in sponsoring H.R. 678 The Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2009. This legislation will revise the outdated social security benefit formula and allow people living with HD to begin receiving their benefits immediately.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the yeoman's work of Mr. Allan Rappaport and Ms. Misty Oto. These wonderful, dedicated Americans are fighting hard every day to make sure one day HD is nothing more than a footnote in a medical school text book.

Finally, I would like to thank the Huntington's Disease Society of America, HDSA.

HDSA is a national, voluntary health organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with HD and their families. This wonderful group promotes and supports research and medical efforts to eradicate Huntington's disease as well as assists families dealing with HD all the while educating the public and health professionals about this condition.

Colleagues of the House of Representatives, I urge you to support H.R. 678 and work with me to end the discrimination of HD patients.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN ON "REPUBLIC DAY"

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 92nd anniversary of Republic Day on May 28.

Located in a geopolitically dynamic region between Europe and Asia and sandwiched between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan is a secular county with a predominantly Muslim population that has also been home for more than a millennia for vibrant Christian and Jewish communities.

Azerbaijan first gained independence in 1918, which led to an explosion of the arts, education, and economic growth. That independence was suspended in 1920 by Soviet invasion, not to be restored until 1991 with the fall of the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by both the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to the United States and our partners in Europe. Notably, in 2009 Azerbaijan provided nearly one-quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel and is considered a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S. supported Nabucco pipeline.

On the security front, immediately after 9/11 Azerbaijan was among the first to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Azerbaijan participated in operations in Kosovo and Iraq and is actively engaged in Afghanistan, having recently doubled its military presence there. Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Additionally, Azerbaijan provides specialized training for Afghan police, border guard officers and de-miners, education and training of Afghan civilian and military medical doctors, and medical treatment of Afghan citizens at Azeri hospitals. Azerbaijan has provided medical equipment and supplies to Afghanistan as well as assisting in the construction of schools and hospitals there.

Azerbaijan remains a reliable partner of NATO and the EU in the South Caucasus through its consistent and effective contribution to common goals and objectives. Azerbaijan is also an active partner of the United States in efforts regarding the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction through its participation in programs such as Caspian Guard and Cooperative Threat Reduction.

Against this backdrop, Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act of 1992, which prohibits direct U.S. government assistance to Azerbaijan, remains a serious obstacle to expanding the strategic partnership between our two countries and is contrary to U.S. national interest in the region. Furthermore, the absence of a U.S. Ambassador to Baku since July 2009 creates unnecessary uncertainties. Finally, as one of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group charged with resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the United States must engage more actively in mediation efforts, as is the case with Moscow and Paris.

Regarding the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, I applaud the European Parliament for adopting a resolution on May 20, 2010 urging the EU to pursue a strategy in the South Caucasus to promote stability, prosperity, and conflict resolution and demanding "the withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan, accompanied by deployment of international forces to be organized with respect of the UN Charter in order to provide the necessary security guarantees in a period of transition, which will ensure the security of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh and allow the displaced persons to return to their homes and further conflicts caused by homelessness to be prevented."

Again, as the Cochairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 92th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus.

CONGRATULATING BRIGITTE
LAVEY FOR WINNING FAIRFAX
COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR
AWARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate my constituent, Brigitte Lavey, a teacher at Langley High School, as the Fairfax County "Teacher of the Year." She has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and character that has benefited many students.

Additionally Brigitte, who teaches advanced placement world history, world studies, and geography, also was recently honored by The Washington Post with the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for educational excellence. This award is presented annually to a teacher from each school division in the Washington metropolitan area.

Brigitte was hired by Fairfax County Public Schools in 1968 to teach English and history