

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 Individuals living with HD are continually denied disability social security benefits because of outdated medical guidelines that require a 2-year waiting period before the accrual of benefits can begin.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 cochairmen 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

at Frost Middle School. She moved to Langley High School in 1975, where she has taught English, history, and art history. She earned bachelor's degrees in English and history from St. Louis University.

Brigitte runs a student-centered classroom. On any given day, students might run a Socratic seminar, give a presentation, run a student-led discussion, or participate in a writing workshop. She implores students to see the significances of history on their own, modern lives; to compare their contemporary world with the times they study, and to use the knowledge they gain to carry our culture and country forward. As the sponsor of the History Honor Society, she continues the learning process by having members adopt a human rights issue and learn how history affects life today.

She is usually first in line to volunteer for training to learn new technology and software. She also organizes an annual gift certificate for Langley custodians and food service employees and dedicates time outside classes to help students who may be struggling and she can frequently be found spending one-on-one time with students in the afternoons and on Saturdays.

Her sense of humor, a commitment to scholarship, learning, empathy, flexibility, and an ability to bring her infectious passion into the classroom are what makes Brigitte Lavey such a dedicated teacher. She has also received Langley's DeBusk Award and Human Relations Award and Fairfax County's History Teacher of the Year award. She was named a Fulbright Scholar for China and has twice been a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Brigitte Lavey for her dedication to her students and wish her continued success as she mentors and teaches our next generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH
COTCHETT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor of a remarkable American, Joseph Cotchett, of San Mateo, CA who is on everyone's list of the top 100 most influential lawyers in the nation, a distinction that I believe understates his achievements in the area of law and social justice.

Twenty years ago Joe was the lead trial lawyer for 23,000 plaintiffs defrauded in the Charles Keating/Lincoln Savings and Loan scandal, initially winning at that time one of the nation's largest jury verdicts, \$3.3 billion. Fast forward to 2009 and he is again representing consumers, this time investors victimized by Bernie Madoff's financial wrongdoings. During his 40-year legal career, he has tried more than 100 cases and settled hundreds more, but this is not the thrust of what I would like to say about him today. Throughout his career he has done extensive pro bono work for the disadvantaged, establishing himself as a true champion of social

justice. He lends his skills and talent when it is needed, not when it is convenient.

His giving is not restricted to legal work. At the local level, he has been on the board of directors for the San Mateo County Heart Association; the San Mateo Boys & Girls Clubs; the Peninsula Association of Retarded Children and Adults; the Bay Meadows Foundation and the Disability Rights Advocates. Joe and his family have been active in supporting organizations helping children, women, ethnic minorities and animals. The Cotchett Family Foundation was specifically created to aid individuals and groups in need of assistance. In 2004, Joe endowed a \$7 million fund to support science and mathematics teacher education at California State Polytechnic University, a program aimed at serving inner city and rural minority children.

He is an accomplished author, lecturer and keynote speaker. His titles include *The Ethics Gap* and *California Courtroom Evidence Foundations*. Although he has focused on legal matters, in 2002 he co-authored and published, *The Coast Time Forgot*, a historic guide to the San Mateo County coast.

Joe Cotchett truly loves the community in which he lives and works and it is only fitting, Madam Speaker, that on May 21, 2010, Notre Dame De Namur University presented him with the Community Spirit Award in honor of his work in promoting social justice through community engagement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,987,796,841,336.51.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,349,371,095,042.70 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE, POSTAL INSPECTORS
EQUITY ACT

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, the United States Postal Service, Postal Inspectors Equity Act, is intended to allow postal inspectors to receive full law enforcement availability pay (LEAP) comparable to criminal investigators of other executive branch agencies. Postal inspectors protect the U.S. Postal Service, its employees and its customers from criminal attack, and protect the nation's mail system from criminal misuse.

Under current law, compensation and benefits for postal inspectors are required to "be maintained on a standard of comparability to the compensation and benefits paid for comparable levels of work in the executive branch of the Government outside of the Postal Service." See Title 39, U.S.C. 1003(c). Currently, the Postal Service is paying postal inspectors LEAP, but such payments are not statutorily required.

As written, the bill will require the Postal Service to pay postal inspectors LEAP pursuant to statute. The United States Postal Service, Postal Inspectors Equity Act will amend Title 5, U.S.C. 5545a to define postal inspectors as law enforcement officers eligible to receive LEAP. The bill will preserve and protect postal inspectors' law enforcement availability pay and ensure that the Postal Inspection Service will be able to recruit and retain highly qualified postal inspectors.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN
L. FUGH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of MG John L. Fugh, who suddenly passed away on May 11th of this year. General Fugh was the first Chinese American general officer in the United States Army and became Judge Advocate General of the Army in the period following the Persian Gulf War. His distinguished service in the U.S. Army and career with the Judge Advocate General's Corps. spanned 33 years. Today, I honor his contributions to our country.

John L. Fugh was born in Beijing and after the Communist Revolution in 1949, moved with his family to Washington, DC. As the son of a public servant, he graduated from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and attained a law degree from George Washington before entering the JAG Corps. He has served America overseas during the Cold War, doing a tour of duty through wartime Vietnam, and as a staff judge advocate for the 3rd Armored Division in Frankfurt, Germany.

Returning home, he rose up the JAG leadership and was promoted to brigadier general, undertaking non-criminal legal matters, and created the Army's first environmental law practice. Achieving the position of Judge Advocate General, the Army's top legal official, he provided strong leadership in navigating the Army's complex legal matters in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, such as the reconstruction of Kuwait.

After retirement from the army, General Fugh continued to serve his country with respect to Sino-American relations by acting as liaison to China for several manufacturing and aerospace firms like Boeing. He also served as chairman of the Committee of 100, a non-partisan membership organization of over 150 prominent Chinese Americans.

A recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and two awards of the Legion of Merit, it is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize the life achievements and contributions to our country of the distinguished General John L. Fugh.