

Austin Yupyo Kong—Allen, Texas—Allen High School

Shannon Elizabeth Rogers—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

William Benac Allred—Richardson, Texas—Plano East Senior High School

Travis Ross Beach—Garland, Texas—Trinity Christian Academy

Nicholas Gregory Cerf—McKinney, Texas—Liberty High School

Mitchell Martin Larios—Frisco, Texas—Frisco High School

Kamron Alexander Murrell—Allen, Texas—Allen High School

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Allie Nicole Baumgarten—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

Constance Ruth Gabel—Plano, Texas—Canyon Creek Christian Academy

Cameron Kistler—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

Joseph Paul Lamb—Plano, Texas—Plano East Senior High School

Melissa Lynn Leonhardt—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

*Adam Ayelle Melaku—Garland, Texas—Garland High School

Andrew Stephen Parks—McKinney, Texas—Austin Tennis Academy College Preparatory School

Adam Joseph Wilkins—McKinney, Texas—McKinney North High School

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Colin Spencer Can—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School

Kinser Dean Newkirk—Plano, Texas—Prince of Peace Christian School

Jack Andrew Westrich—McKinney, Texas—McKinney Boyd High School

*Adam Melaku will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

Congratulations are in order for these 18 appointees and 1 U.S. Air Force Preparatory School student. God bless you, God bless Texas, God bless America, and I salute you.

RECOGNIZING THE MANY FINE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. JIM BRUBAKER OF THE CARLSBAD HI-NOON ROTARY CLUB

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the many outstanding achievements of Jim Brubaker, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club. Mr. Brubaker's leadership during the 2011–2012 Rotary year has contributed significantly to the Hi-Noon Rotary Club, the community of Carlsbad and the mission of Rotary. During his tenure, the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club sponsored; RYLA, a youth awareness leadership conference; provided a Christmas party and provided meals and gifts to needy elementary school children; co-sponsored the Oktoberfest fundraiser that benefited the Carlsbad Women's Resource Center, Carlsbad Boys and Girls Club and other charitable community organizations; sponsored a golf tournament which funded scholarships for Carlsbad high school students and Marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and provided support to other needy military personnel and their families; promoted literacy by providing dictionaries for English and Spanish speaking elementary

school children; conducted a Business and Ethics conference for AVID high school students; provided support to La Posada, a facility for the homeless and sponsored the Four-Way Speech Contest, a program to help develop public speaking skills of our community high school students. We assisted in the distribution of food, clothing and toys to over 400 needy Carlsbad families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau. Under President Brubaker's leadership the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary and its membership completed a number of other projects and provided over 9,400 volunteer hours of community service.

In the international arena, under Mr. Brubaker's leadership, a team of Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarians joined with others to build a house in Mexico for a needy family. Through our support of the Paul Harris Foundation, the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary co-sponsored numerous other humanitarian projects all over the world including the effort to eradicate polio worldwide. We partnered with the Golden Triangle Rotary club in a program to build a school for girls in Afghanistan. Foreign exchange students were hosted as part of a program to promote better understanding of other cultures, and participated in developing a source of safe drinking water for Belize and the Ivory Coast. During Mr. Brubaker's tenure we also participated in "Heart to Heart in Africa," a program to provide much needed medical help to children with heart problems in third world countries, and computers were provided for school children at the Los Tambos School in Mexico.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Jim Brubaker. Without question, his leadership and the fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.

HONORING MONSANTO EMPLOYEES

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the employees of Monsanto who have played a major role in great agricultural advancements, and have positively impacted the lives of Americans and people around the world. I rise today to congratulate the employees of Monsanto who have gone above and beyond their normal duties and have been honored by the company's most prestigious award—the Sustainable Yield Pledge Award.

These outstanding workers stand out in the overall mission of the company. Monsanto has risen to the challenge of providing sustenance for an ever-increasing world population and has become a world-leader in advancing sustainable global agriculture. They have a vision to work with farmers to produce more, conserve more and improve lives on a global scale. This is all made possible by researching and advancing biotechnology to help corn, cotton, soybean and other specialty crop farmers overcome challenges and hardship. Monsanto is going the extra mile to produce enough food, fuel and fiber for a booming world population, which is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050.

The 61 Monsanto employees are prime examples of individuals who combined the vision

and values of their company. These award winners display the integrity, dialogue, transparency, sharing, benefits, and respect—all values promoted by Monsanto—and have paid it forward by acting as owners and creating a high-quality work environment. Through their efforts, lives have been improved in the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, India and Africa.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to congratulate the following employees receiving a 2012 Monsanto Sustainable Yield Pledge Award for their positive impacts in science, agriculture and their communities.

Zellipah N. Githui, Nikki F. Davis, Elizabeth A. Vancil, Jeff Woessner, Agnes Adel Bolwell, Anne W. Troupis, Ken Rinkenberger, Jose M. Madero, Jose Jaime Mijares, Nery N. Echeverria, Jorge Christlieb, Gerardo F. Vaquero, Angela Maria Bastidas, Enrique Wehlen, Manuel J. Bravo, Andres Felix, Manuel Oyervides, Aurelia Skipwith, Kinyua Mbijewe, Natalie DiNicola, Glynn Young, Kathleen Manning, Kate Humphrey, Darren Wallis, Raegan Johnson, Mark I. Sutherland, Lisa Bannon-Bergmann, Chris Paton, Juan Ferreira, Kobus Lindeque, Deborah Patterson, B. Yogesh, Hitendra Singh Rana, Shrikant Mallinath Patil, Sandeep Bansal, Datta Ithape, Nilesh Bobade, Rahul Haribhau Kapse, Shrijan Gupta, Nick Lammers, Steve Pike, Wendy Martin, Ron Gardner, Tom Good, Krystal Einspahr, Tanner Oliphant, Julie Edmonds, Steve Schaefer, Greg Erler, Marcia Rhodus, Patrick Siler, Jenny Backhaus, Jennifer Tarr, Debra Vohs, Theresa Fitzsimmons, Scott Middelkamp, Andrew Jeremiah, Jason Huelsing, Jeff Hughes, Greg High, and Oseyi Ikenobe.

Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these exceptional Monsanto employees for their extraordinary work and thank them for the impact they have had, and will continue to have, worldwide.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3541, which should be called the Straw Man Act of 2012.

Our first priorities in the House of Representatives must be helping to foster job creation and supporting middle class families.

Instead, the Republicans once again have chosen to continue their radical assault on women's health care in the guise of preventing gender discrimination in abortion.

I am concerned about gender discrimination. That is why I support legislation that will address gender bias like the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the health reform law that will give women access to preventive health care.

Unlike those bills, H.R. 3541 does nothing to address sex discrimination or gender bias in society, but instead would punish health care providers for performing a legal medical procedure.

Offensively, this bill would create a right for a woman's husband or family member to sue to stop her from obtaining abortion care, which is a constitutionally protected right.

Besides being misguided and offensive, H.R. 3541 is dangerous. This bill would give the federal government the right to inspect people's medical records and interfere with a private doctor-patient relationship.

I oppose this anti-choice and anti-woman bill.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this offensive, misguided and dangerous piece of legislation and would encourage them to support authentic pieces of legislation that address gender discrimination.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON "REPUBLIC DAY"

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 94th anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th.

Azerbaijan and the United States have developed a robust and growing relationship over the last two decades. I am proud extremely that we have established what Secretary Clinton has called "deep, important, and durable bonds between the United States and Azerbaijan."

Although located in a geopolitically dynamic region sandwiched between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has consistently looked to the United States as an ally despite these difficult neighbors. A secular country with a predominantly Muslim population, Azerbaijan has also been home for over a millennia to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities representing a role model for peaceful coexistence and harmony of different religions and ethnic groups.

Azerbaijan was also the first country to open Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. and European 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. Exporting around 1 million barrels of oil and gas from the Caspian Sea basin to international markets, Azerbaijan also provides nearly 40 percent of all crude oil supplies to Israel. Additionally, the successful launch and continued exploration of the Shah Deniz project will open up the Southern Gas Corridor delivering alternative gas supplies to Europe, further contributing towards a movement away from dependence on Middle Eastern Oil and energy suppliers.

Azerbaijan has also continued to take steps to ensure the strength and security of its infrastructure in a tumultuous region. The completion of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad connection expected in early 2013, expansion of cargo and passenger terminal of the Baku international airport, and construction of the brand new Baku International Sea Trade Port all are key contributors to Azerbaijan's increasing role as a transportation hub in the region linking European and Asian markets.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9–11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important over-flight clearances of U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities providing ground and naval transit for roughly 40 percent of the Coalitions supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 94th 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 Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 50 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

TRAGEDY ON THE HIGHWAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because of a terrible tragedy that occurred in my Congressional district nearly 6 years ago.

In 2006, the City of Beaumont was still recovering from Hurricane Rita. The West Brook High School girl's soccer team and their successes were good news that brought joy to a city in need of something to cheer for.

The Bruins were coming off a 14–5–2 record, and they were traveling to Humble, Texas, to take on the Houston Lamar Redskins in the Class 5A playoffs.

The game had already been postponed once and it was raining again, but the game was set to take place at 5 p.m. in Humble.

Unfortunately, the team never made it to the game.

Around 2 p.m., about 28 miles from home in Devers, Texas, the chartered bus carrying the team, swerved to miss debris that had fallen off a truck in front of them.

The bus rolled onto its side into a muddy ditch.

Senior Alicia Bonura and sophomore Ashley Brown lost their lives in this tragedy.

Six other girls were hospitalized in serious condition. Goalie Devin Martindale lost her arm in this accident.

Stephen Forman and Brad Brown, parents of two of the victims of the accident are here today and I would like to thank them for their work on this issue.

Because of this accident, I became involved in the Motorcoach safe issue, and I was happy to work with my colleague Rep. JOHN LEWIS (GA) to push for some common-sense provisions in the Transportation bill to apply to the Motorcoach industry so that another West Brook tragedy can be avoided.

These provisions are:

1. Requiring safety belts to ensure that occupants stay in their seats in a crash.
2. Requiring anti-ejection glazing on windows to help prevent passengers from being easily thrown from the motorcoach.
3. Ensuring that strong, crush-resistant roofs can withstand rollovers.
4. Improving oversight and enforcement requirements for motorcoach companies.

I strongly believe that these long overdue safety improvements can go a long way in making our nations buses safer.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ESTHER FELDMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Esther Feldman, President of Community Conservation Solutions, in recognition of her outstanding achievements as one of the most effective conservation leaders in California.

Under her leadership, Community Conservation Solutions, CCS, has worked to solve the complex and challenging problems that emerge wherever people and nature meet. CCS creates innovative and practical solutions to serious environmental problems affecting California's natural and human communities.

Esther Feldman is one of California's most valued conservation leaders. For nearly three decades, she has worked continuously to protect the environment for future generations. Her technical, financial, community and policy expertise combined with her great organizing ability has led to countless victories for conservation. Nearly every park, wilderness area, river, beach or trail in Los Angeles County has benefited from Esther's work. Esther's ability to unite diverse interests for a common goal created new parks and open space, and established over \$3 billion dollars in new public funding sources to further expand conservation in California and throughout the United States.

Since founding CCS in 1998, Esther has built the organization into a leader in conserving natural lands and water resources and in working with communities. Under Esther's visionary leadership, CCS conceived of and spearheaded the two-square mile Baldwin Hills Park Project in the heart of urban Los Angeles, launched wetland restoration efforts in Upper Newport Bay, and has developed new project and funding approaches to creatively solving polluted runoff problems through CCS's Water Quality Improvement and Green Solution Projects as well as working on multiple projects of vital importance across my district in the San Fernando Valley.

Esther is known for being pragmatic and for her proficiency at acquiring funding to guarantee the longevity of the projects she directs. This has translated into a long list of successful outcomes and lasting public and environmental benefits.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing Esther Feldman for her invaluable service and dedication to the community and the environment.