

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 Individuals living with HD are continually denied disability social security benefits because of outdated medical guidelines that require a 2-year waiting period before the accrual of benefits can begin.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