I commend the students, principal, administrators, teachers and parents of Duncanville High School for a job well done in these successful projects.

HONORING DR. CHARLES H. MCCOLLUM, MD

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honoring Dr. Charles H. McCollum for being named the Houston Surgical Society's ''Distinguished Surgeon'' of 2000.

An extraordinary surgeon and teacher, Dr. McCollum has served since 1967 as Assistant Professor and then Professor of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. He is renowned as a lowkey yet demanding teacher who instills in his residents the excellence that he himself brings to his profession. While sharing his knowledge with residents and enhancing their performances, he is still dedicated to his patients and to his daily work in the operating room at the Texas Medical Center's Methodist Hospital.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Dr. McCollum graduated from the University of Texas in Austin with a B.A. in 1955. He received his Medical Degree from UT's Medical Branch in Galveston in 1959. Dr. McCollum did his internship and his residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Dr. McCollum is known throughout the Texas Medical Center community as a fine physician and civic leader. From 1961–1969, Dr. McCollum was a Captain in the United States Army Reserve. He has had many academic and professional society appointments and offices. He served as President of the Texas chapter American College of Chest Physicians for 1975–1976. He lent his expertise to the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society, serving as an officer from 1977 to 1992. He has served as President of the Houston Surgical Society, Southwestern Surgical Society, and the Texas Surgical Society.

Throughout his career, Dr. McCollum has distinguished himself as a caring doctor who puts his patients first and a gifted teacher who demands the best. I congratulate Dr. McCollum for being named the Houston Surgical Society's, ''Distinguished Surgeon'' of 2000.

TRIBUTE TO AMY SCHLUETER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amy Schlueter as an exceptional teenager from Rolla, Missouri. Amy was recognized yesterday at the Fifth Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards as one of Missouri's top two student volunteers for the year 2000. Amy received a $1,000 award, a silver medallion and her trip to D.C. for her exemplary volunteer service in her community.

Amy Schlueter started reaching out to others at a young age. Amy, a senior at Rolla High School, implemented and organized a ''Random Acts of Kindness'' club at her school to challenge her peers to act with kindness, not violence. Since her club began, 89 students and faculty members have been rewarded for random acts of kindness, and in January, a two-week celebration in Rolla recognized hundreds of community members who made a difference by being kind to others.

In Amy's words, ''Our nightly news provides us with images of savage car crashes, rapes, assaults, mutilated children, gang wars, telling us this is reality. It is exceptionally rare to hear about people doing good things for one another, and the reality is, random acts of kindness happen every day.''

This kind of maturity and dedication to a community is not often recognized in today's youth. As Amy said, we often hear about the bad behavior in our youth. I hope Amy will serve as an inspiration to today's youth as she demonstrates that it is cool to be kind to others, and youth can play an important role in their community.

Next week is National Random Acts of Kindness Week. As we work on our annual spending bills, and go about our day-to-day business, I hope that my colleagues can follow Amy's example. I also hope we as a society can spend more time focusing on the Amy Schlueter's of the world when we watch the evening news so we will have good examples to follow.

REGARDING PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH CHINA

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today after months of information-gathering, discussion, and deliberation, I am announcing my position on the issue of granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status to China. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the hundreds of constituents, colleagues, community leaders, and representatives of groups with a stake in this debate, for sharing their views and answering my questions as they patiently engaged in this process with me. Seldom in my legislative career have I taken an issue more seriously than this one. While I realize that my decision will not please everybody, I hope there is no doubt that every voice and every argument presented to me was given the utmost consideration.

I believe it to be in the best interests of the 19th District of Illinois, and the nation as a whole, that I oppose extension of Permanent Normal Trade Relations to China. I do support China's accession to the World Trade Organization. However, I am convinced that the United States must maintain annual grants of NTR until we have ascertained that China is living up to WTO rules and our own expectations regarding human rights, labor rights, religious tolerance and environmental protection.

China has a long history of failing to live up to its agreements, and Chinese officials have recently indicated they do not intend to abide by certain components of the WTO agreement either. While I hope this will not be the case, I am not comfortable relinquishing bilateral enforcement tools like Section 301 and anti-dumping provisions in favor of a WTO dispute resolution process which is notoriously slow. We must not place ourselves in a situation where American jobs are sacrificed while we wait two or three years for a WTO ruling, only to have no recourse if the ruling is adverse.

Many argue that only through engagement and open trade will we see programs in China on matters of labor rights, human rights, religious persecution, and environmental degradation. If this is indeed the case, then we need not worry, for China will be engaged with the global marketplace through its WTO membership regardless of the outcome of our PNTR vote. Unfortunately, there is reason to doubt this contention. The United States has been trading with China since 1980, and since 1994 we have followed a policy of ''delinking'' human rights from trade policy, based upon the theory that free trade equals greater freedom in society. Yet every year since delinkage conditions in China have worsened, and according to a 1999 State Department report, human rights there have deteriorated markedly.

I represent an agricultural district, and I have seen first-hand the devastation that recent price drops have wrought. I am sympathetic to the need for expanded export markets and other opportunities to improve the farm economy, and if I believed that the China agreement was the answer to agriculture's problems, I may have taken a different position. Unfortunately, several factors lead me to the opposite conclusion. First, as I have mentioned, China has not been a model trading partner in the past, and I remain skeptical that they will follow through with promises regarding agriculture and other products. Second, China is a nation committed to preserving its national independence and improving rural stability, and its agricultural production consistently outpaces demand. China maintains nearly a three-to-one ratio of agricultural exports to imports, and I worry that China's objective is to improve its domestic distribution system, rather than bring in more agriculture products when they already have surpluses. If this is the case, our agreement with China will bring minimal benefits to struggling farmers in Illinois.

The argument has been made that increased trade with China will obviate the need for federal assistance like the $8.7 billion in emergency farm aid that Congress provided last year. However, even under the rosiest scenario, the total value of U.S. exports of wheat, rice, corn, cotton, soybeans and soybean products to China would increase by $1.6 billion dollars in 2005 when the agreement is fully implemented, and the average annual value of U.S. exports from 2000 through 2009 would increase by $1.5 billion dollars. The administration estimates that net farm income would be higher by $1.7 billion in 2005, and higher by an annual average of $1.1 billion per year through 2009, although higher feed costs and reduced government payments would offset part of the increase.

These potential increases, even if fully realized, fall billions short of the assistance that has been required in recent years to help farmers weather hard times, suggesting to me that China's export market is not the panacea it has been portrayed to be. I recall that during the NAFTA debate, proponents of the agreement made similar arguments about the importance of new export markets for American