

strong background in mathematics is becoming increasingly important in a generation where breakthroughs in fields such as research and technology are occurring every day.

To keep the United States on the cutting edge of these advancements, we must work to ensure our children are properly prepared from the very first day of their education. Universities such as ULM and the nine other universities acknowledged by the council are surely doing their part to make certain the teachers who complete their programs are ready to meet the challenges of educating the new generation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the University of Louisiana at Monroe elementary education program and its efforts to produce quality educators in the field of mathematics.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPTIVE  
PRIMATE SAFETY AND DIS-  
ABLED HUMAN ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill to assist a remarkable nonprofit humanitarian organization known as Helping Hands.

This organization, which was first established in 1979, has placed 131 specially trained capuchin monkeys in the homes of severely disabled Americans throughout the country at absolutely no cost to the recipient.

While Helping Hands initially received some financial assistance from the National Science Foundation, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the U.S. Veterans Administration, it has been operating solely on its own since its final government grant in 1994. The purpose of this legislation is not to authorize any government funding for this organization. In fact, it is simply designed to correct what I am sure is an unintended consequence of a bill, H.R. 2964, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act that passed the House of Representatives on June 17, 2008.

The measure I am introducing today is a solution to the problem created by H.R. 2964 which would prohibit the transportation of nonhuman primates across State lines. Since this legislation is pending action in the other body, I have incorporated the text of the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, as passed by the House, in this measure with the modification of allowing the Helping Hands organization to continue to place their service monkeys in the homes of disabled Americans throughout this country. It is a narrowly tailored change that only exempts a nonprofit organization that provides service monkeys to recipients with severe mobility impairment.

Madam Speaker, until my office was recently contacted by a representative of Helping Hands, I was not aware of its existence. I was also not aware that capuchin monkeys were being specifically trained at the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation Center in Boston to help disabled individuals with simple everyday tasks. This training lasts between 18 to 24 months and costs about \$10,000 per monkey. It is a remarkable program.

Upon graduation, these trained service monkeys are transported by car and plane from Boston to disabled recipients throughout the United States. The recipients must hold a valid state permit for the nonhuman primate and Helping Hands retains ownership of the service monkey at all times.

For nearly 30 years, this humanitarian organization has provided invaluable assistance to Americans with polio, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, military veterans who sustained severe injuries in Vietnam and Iraq and people who are paralyzed or live with other severe mobility impairments. The service monkeys perform a variety of tasks including retrieving dropped items, turning on the television or loading a compact disc, putting straws in drinking bottles and pushing buttons on personal computers. Just as importantly, these service monkeys provide the disabled recipients with a sense of independence, companionship and a renewed enthusiasm for life.

Madam Speaker, my bill will make a small simple modification to the Lacey Act to ensure that Helping Hands will be able to continue to transport its service monkeys to worthy recipients in all 50 States and U.S. territories in the future. I am confident that the authors of H.R. 2964 never intended to adversely affect this humanitarian group nor did they realize it would effectively kill this nationwide effort to assist Americans like the marine who was severely injured by a roadside explosion in Iraq. As a result of this attack, the marine sustained a severe brain injury, lost both legs and one of his eyes. Today, he is living in southern California and he has become a recent recipient of a Helping Hand service monkey.

Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of the Captive Primate Safety and Disabled Human Assistance Act. It is a humanitarian solution to what would be, if uncorrected, a serious problem. It is also right that we allow our disabled military veterans who have sacrificed so much for this country the opportunity to participate in the Helping Hands Program. I want to also acknowledge that the Army Veterinary Corps has already endorsed its enactment.

TRIBUTE TO GARY SINNWELL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Gary Sinnwell as the recipient of the 2007 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement (AP) for his commitment and enthusiasm as a Mason City, Iowa High School teacher.

Mr. Sinnwell is a mathematics instructor who has taught at Mason City High School for 20 years. He graduated from Waterloo Columbus High School and earned his teaching degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He continues to further his education by pursuing his master's degree. Mr. Sinnwell was humbled by the award and contributes his success to his own excellent teachers while in high school.

Another secret to Mr. Sinnwell's success is his devotion to serving others. While in college, he volunteered his time at Waterloo West High School and found his calling in serving as a role model and helping guide

youth. Mr. Sinnwell's goal is to help his students work cooperatively and be self-directed learners.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending and congratulating Gary Sinnwell. It is an honor to represent Mr. Sinnwell in Congress, and I wish him the best as he continues to provide a positive impact as a role model and educator for the youth he serves.

DR. JERRY LIN

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, noted historian Henry Brooks Adams once said that, "A teacher affects eternity—he can never tell where his influence stops." Today I come to honor one of the most influential teachers at Lamar University. Each year the Lamar University Research Council chooses to honor a faculty member for their outstanding contributions to scholarship, research, grant writing, and creative activity. Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Dr. Jerry Lin received the 2008 University Scholar Award, the university's highest honor recognizing research and creative activity.

Since he joined Lamar University in 1999, Dr. Lin has been considered one of the leading investigators in his field. He has received over \$3 million in research grants where his interests include both air quality and water quality in environmental science and engineering. He is particularly well known for his contributions in mercury research. This has led to collaborations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Texas Air Research Center, among others.

Dr. Lin has a sincere love for helping and teaching. His work as an associate professor and academic advisor has affected many lives. He has taught 5 undergraduate and 12 graduate courses at Lamar. Dr. Lin serves as the faculty advisor of the American Society of Civil Engineers, which has won over 40 regional competitions under his direction since 2000.

Dr. Lin is a distinguished author who has been quoted by many other researchers all over the world, from Canada to France and China. He has authored over 100 publications, from book chapters to peer-reviewed journal articles. Publications such as Environmental Science and Technology and the Journal of Environmental Engineering have featured his work. Dr. Lin has been invited to speak in Thailand, Croatia, and across the United States.

Awards and recognition are nothing new to Dr. Lin. He has received the University Research Forum Award, Who's Who in Engineering and Science, the Gill Master Award for Young Investigator, and in 2002 received a University Merit Award, which recognizes faculty members who show an outstanding commitment to education.

Dr. Lin's passion for students, his research projects and publications, and contributions to his field earned him this top honor. I am proud to recognize his contributions in the Second Congressional District.