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DR. MARK KUBALA

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Dr. Mark Kubala, M.D., for being named Outstanding Neurosurgeon of the Year by the Texas Association of Neurological Surgeons, the latest in a long line of awards given to this extraordinary physician. The award was given to a man that has spent his life displaying excellence in his field and commitment to his community.

Dr. Kubala graduated from the University of Texas in 1955 as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society, considered one of the most prestigious American college honor societies. He received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch—Galveston and served residencies at the Baylor College of Medicine and the Mayo Clinic. He has engaged in private practice in neurological surgery since 1966 and is Chief of Surgery at all three Beaumont hospitals.

Dr. Kubala has a long history of leadership. He has been a member of the Texas Medical Association since 1969 and has served as the Association's President, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and has served on numerous committees. He helped create the TMA Foundation, their philanthropic association, and served two terms as President. He served as President of the Texas Head & Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Foundation for 7 years. He also has the unique distinction of serving simultaneously on three different school boards in the 1970s. Dr. Kubala is a very busy man.

His honors are numerous, including the Texas Medical Association's 2006 Distinguished Service Award, their highest honor, for his tireless advocacy for patients and physicians at the local, state, and national level. His peers at the University of Texas Medical Branch—Galveston awarded him the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was presented the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons in 1998 as well as the Dr. J.C. Crager Award for community service from the American Heart Association.

On behalf of the entire Second Congressional District of Texas I would like to congratulate Dr. Kubala on his latest award and thank him for his many years of service to the Southeast Texas Community.

IN HONOR OF KATHLEEN A.  
REILLY

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Aviation Electronics Technician First Class (AT1) Kathleen A. Reilly USN, upon her selection as Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year for 2007.

In these halls, Kathleen Reilly is better known as a professional staff member for the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Kathleen has been the professional staffer on several committee CODELS on which I have participated. I have come to greatly respect and rely on her expertise, and have come to consider her a friend. Those of us who know her are not surprised Kathleen was chosen for this honor.

The Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year candidate is typified by sustained superior performance, proven leadership, a proven dedication to self improvement, outstanding professionalism and superior personal appearance. That sums up Kathleen pretty well.

Petty Officer Reilly is a native of Lexington, Massachusetts, and enlisted in the Navy on active duty in November 1988. She attended advanced electronics schools and reported to her first duty station as part of the Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two (VQ-2) at Rota, Spain. She was one of the first three women selected for airborne combat operations in support of Desert Shield/Storm. Her squadron's mission was to conduct airborne electronic reconnaissance to obtain information on areas and targets of naval and national interest. This tour gave Petty Officer Reilly her first experience with the ways our intelligence community supports our National Command Structure and she developed a reputation as someone who always gave the extra effort.

Following her tour in Spain, Petty Officer Reilly deployed onboard the USS *Abraham Lincoln* and later the USS *Nimitz*. She was the first female Navy Tactical Operations Instructor in her squadron. Kathleen was also selected as the first female Special Intelligence and Radar Operator in a Patrol Squadron supporting the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Special Operations Command.

These highly classified missions provided intelligence instrumental to maintaining our National Security. Kathleen has continued to prove her leadership skills during her current tour as one of the senior enlisted responsible for the safe load out and operations of cargo aircraft.

On the Intelligence Committee, Kathleen is responsible for overseeing budgets, programs, legislation and preparing funding for members assigned to the Intelligence Committee. Kathleen has been the monitor of the Military Intelligence Program and other intelligence community programs. Her military experience allows her to understand the dual nature of the nation's intelligence apparatus supporting military operations and policy decisions. Her oversight has been instrumental in providing the information necessary to establish, terminate and in some cases preserve military intelligence community programs vital to a balanced portfolio of intelligence capability.

Kathleen has earned numerous military awards, including two Air Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievements, Enlisted Air Warfare Wings and, as a result of her selection as the Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year, is being meritoriously advanced to Chief Petty Officer. Mr. Speaker, we in the Congress are fortunate to have someone with Kathleen's abilities and professionalism as part of our professional staff. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Chief Petty Officer Kathleen A. Reilly on her achievements and in thanking her for extraordinary service to her country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SELECT AGENT PROGRAM AND BIO-SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008"

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today my colleague MIKE ROGERS of Michigan and I are introducing the House companion to a bill introduced by Senators BURR and KENNEDY—the Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act.

The bill will provide an important link in the chain of defenses needed to fight the potential threat of bioterrorism.

The bill reauthorizes and updates the Select Agent Program, which limits access to and controls the transfer of dangerous biological agents and toxins.

It requires the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the program, and recommend ways in which it can be restructured to enhance biosecurity and international scientific collaboration.

It requires that the program consider newly discovered agents—such as genetically modified organisms, synthetic compounds, and other agents identified in Homeland Security risk assessments—to ensure that the list of agents is current and comprehensive.

It encourages the sharing of information with state emergency planning officials, which is vital to ensuring that our first responders have the tools they need to prevent or respond to an attack.

And it ensures minimum biosecurity and biosafety standards for the training of workers in the laboratories that deal with the most dangerous substances.

These measures are of vital importance. Over the past several decades we have seen revolutions in technology, economics, and politics that are fundamentally changing the world we live in.

The upside of these developments is obvious. The world is more prosperous, healthy, and interconnected than it has ever been before. But with these revolutions also come challenges.

The same advances in biotechnology that help save lives, can also be used to develop dangerous biological agents and toxins that can take lives.

The new global information infrastructure that is now the backbone of our economy can be used to spread knowledge of how to create and disperse biological weapons.

It is more important than ever that the U.S. government be able to track and control the dangerous materials that can be used to construct these weapons. This bill will help that effort.

In closing, I'd like to say a special word about Senator KENNEDY. He has been a legislative hero of mine since my days working as a staffer on the Senate Judiciary Committee. He and Vicki are good friends, and are in my prayers.

Rep. ROGERS has amassed an impressive amount of knowledge on this subject, and will play a major role in securing its passage.