

and was recognized as “Best in Texoma” by the publishers of the Sherman Herald-Democrat for three consecutive years.

Before he was first elected to the Texas House in 2018, Reggie served as the Chairman of the Grayson County Republican Party and the Northern Regional Director of the Texas Republican County Chairman’s Association. As a legislator, he serves on the Appropriations Committee and Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee. Throughout his time in the Texas House, Reggie has consistently fought to protect the unborn, lower taxes, defend our Constitutional rights, promote individual liberty, and support our schools and educators. He is actively involved in charitable organizations and previously served on the board of Big Brother Big Sisters and Friends of Scouting with the Texoma Valley Boy Scouts. Along with his family, Reggie attends the First Baptist Church in Van Alstyne. Without question, he has accomplished so much for our community and the State of Texas. I am proud to call Reggie a good friend of mine, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Reggie with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING MATTHIAS ALDACO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthias Aldaco for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Matthias has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Matthias, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Matthias’s hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Matthias Aldaco on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

INTRODUCTION OF CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, today I am introducing the Captive Primate Safety Act of 2024.

The private ownership of primates poses significant public health and animal welfare issues. Primates are not pets: they are highly intelligent and social animals whose needs cannot be met when they are inappropriately confined. However, primates are easily obtained on the Internet and through out-of-state dealers and auctions.

There have been several high-profile incidents of pet primates attacking humans including when a Connecticut woman was mauled by her neighbor’s pet chimpanzee and lost her hands, nose, eyes, lips, and mid-face bone structure, along with enduring significant brain injuries. There is no reason to tolerate the risk of an avoidable tragedy like this that puts the public and first responders at risk. Beyond the immediate health risk of an attack, these animals also often carry dangerous viruses that can be transferred to humans such as COVID-19 and Herpes B.

The Captive Primate Safety Act supplements the more than 30 state laws that already outlaw the private ownership of primates by amending the Lacey Act to ban interstate or foreign commerce, or possession, of any prohibited primate species.

It should not take another tragedy to make common sense change. I thank my colleagues Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK, Congressman JOE NEGUSE, Congresswoman NANCY MACE, and Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL for their partnership, and I look forward to advancing this critical legislation to safeguard public health and animal welfare.

RECOGNIZING BRENDA FRAZIER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Brenda Frazier, who is described as a volunteer with extraordinary integrity, empathy, and commitment to the cause. Brenda began her journey with A New Generation Pregnancy Center in June of 2014, bringing with her a knowledge and passion for ministry work. Her primary role as a volunteer is to work one-on-one with clients who find themselves pregnant and are not sure what to do. Her connectivity, understanding, and clarity in providing support, education and truth have provided hundreds of clients with the information and knowledge to help them with their decision-making process. Brenda exemplifies purity in action, deed and word. Her kind and thoughtful outlook provides a respite to many people who find themselves in unchartered territories. In addition to her client advocacy position, Brenda provides unwavering support for the pregnancy center’s fundraisers. She has been an instrumental part in the planning, organization and execution of our Annual Clay Shoot. From finding sponsors to sourcing exquisite silent auction and raffle prizes, her zeal for event planning is phenomenal. She does not miss a beat, championing the center’s cause along her path, and providing an avenue for individuals and organizations to understand the mission of services provided to our community. Her energy and enthusiasm for helping others knows no bounds.

It is clear that Ms. Frazier has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR STEVE SIMMONS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Steve Simmons of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Steve has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Steve was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1955. Throughout his childhood, he frequently moved around the country with his family until they finally settled in Anna, Texas. In high school, Steve was an active member of his school’s football team and had a desire to play college football. His football coach, Hal Porter, had a tremendous impact on young Steve. Coach Porter’s influential leadership style inspired Steve to say, “I want to be special to my kids like he is special to us.” From that day on, Steve knew he wanted to become a football coach himself and make a difference in the lives of our youth.

After graduating from high school in 1973, Steve attended McMurry University and pursued a coaching-teaching career while playing football. He married the love of his life, Doreen, in 1978. They moved to Van Alstyne, where Steve kickstarted his football coaching career at Van Alstyne ISD. He also coached at Chillicothe and Celina before joining the United States Marine Corps Reserves. While in the Marines, Steve earned the rank of Corporal and received a Marksmanship Award while continuing to coach football. He credits his strong faith in God to guiding him towards a long-term coaching opportunity at Howe ISD. For his dedication and efforts, he was named Campus Teacher of the Month twice and was recognized as Teacher of the Month by KLAKE Radio. Steve was also inducted into the Howe Hall of Honor and selected as one of the top educators in Howe LSD’s history. From helping to fundraise, driving students on field trips, and speaking at pep rallies, Steve has made a wonderful impact on the lives of our children while strengthening his faith and community involvement. His signature chant, “Highly Motivated, Truly Dedicated”, continues to encourage students to be the best they can be.

It is an honor to bestow Steve with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING SAM SMITH

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sam Smith for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sam has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Sam, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This