

## **VIDEO: 2013 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards**

### **Texas Governor Rick Perry**

Hi, I'm Rick Perry. I'd like to welcome you to the twenty-first annual Texas Environmental Excellence Awards banquet. Now tonight, we honor some of our state's most outstanding environmental leaders.

Each of the winners we're recognizing tonight was chosen because they believe in responsibility. They understand it's our job as Texans to protect the clean air that we breathe and the clean water we drink. As proud Texans, we're blessed with a rich array of wonders to experience and tonight's winners understand the need to protect those natural resources for this generation and for all those who will follow.

Take Mary Jo Bogatto, for example. Mary Jo has made restoring Cactus Creek Ranch her life's work. Hosting students and guests from across Texas and motivating them to protect wildlife and learn about native plants and habitat restoration.

As Texans strive for more efficient water use, no organization sets the bar higher than the Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Not only have they preserved the tranquility and integrity of the final resting place for our nation's veterans, they've created a meticulous, rich, native landscape that's reduced their water usage by 90 percent.

And finally, there's no more fierce environmental steward than 11 year old, Oscar Medina. Oscar has motivated countless Laredo citizens to join his fight to improve his hometown environment by hosting cleanups, tree plantings, and tire collections.

Oscar, Mary Jo, the folks at Fort Bliss, and all those being honored tonight are not just winners, they're inspirations. And Anita joins me in congratulating each of you for helping build a better Texas.

God bless you, and through you, may He continue to bless the great state of Texas.