

accomplishments of Mr. David Grossberg of Ontario, California.

Mr. Grossberg is the outgoing President for the City of Ontario Chamber of Commerce. According to his peers, Mr. Grossberg has demonstrated exceptional personal and civic leadership in his role as President and was actively involved in his community. Mr. Grossberg showed great commitment to the Chamber and was truly dedicated to serving as President.

The Chamber's accomplishments under Mr. Grossberg's tenure as President and Vice President have been numerous and impressive: the Chamber averaged 20 new members a month and ended the year with its largest budget surplus to date. As a result of Mr. Grossberg's leadership, the Inland Valley Chamber Alliance was formed to bring the local chambers closer on regional issues. During his term, the Chamber was successful in partnering with the California Manufacturer's Technology Center, who will co-sponsor the Chamber's Industrial Forum. Creation of the Ontario Chamber Service Club Round Table and Marketing Forum were two more examples of Mr. Grossberg's commitment to providing members with vital networking tools.

During his Presidency, the first Service Club Project was completed. In a joint effort by local service clubs, more than 1,000 rose bushes were planted on Euclid Avenue. Mr. Grossberg was also instrumental in saving the annual Christmas Nativity scenes on Euclid Avenue.

In addition to his duties as President of the Chamber, Mr. Grossberg serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors, Downtown Ontario Business and Professional Association, Director, Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District, member of the Ontario Rotary Club, and was a former member of the Downtown Ontario Revitalization Committee.

Mr. Grossberg's tenure as President of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce brought great leadership in the development of strong economic development programs and public policy. He has achieved an impressive record of career and civic accomplishments and, in doing so, has earned the admiration and respect of those who have the privilege of working with him. I would like to congratulate him on these accomplishments and sincerely thank him for his service to his community. He is truly deserving of the accolades of this Congress.

THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 57th anniversary of D-Day, and recognize the hundreds of thousands of Americans soldiers who fought in World War II.

On July 6, 1944, thousands of men landed on the beaches of Normandy. Thousands of Allied paratroopers landed behind enemy lines, and even more made their way to the shore in small water crafts. More than 175,000 soldiers landed that morning before dawn. Hitler's seemingly strong wall of force had fallen to the Allied troops in less than one day.

Given the code name "Overload," D-Day was a plan so immense that literally thou-

sands of men were involved with the planning of the campaign. This battle marks the allied nations unity and cooperation to work toward one common goal. 4,900 soldiers were lost on D-Day, yet their memory will live on forever in the hearts and souls of American patriots.

Americans united together through determination, patriotism, honor, and faith. Their duty and love of country led them toward victory. 57 years after that day, we continue to commemorate and pay homage to those who sacrificed so that we all could experience peace and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memories of those Americans who fought to conquer tyranny and hatred in Europe. June 6, 1944 forever altered the course of history and united our great nation for one common goal, freedom.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS E. WHITE ON BECOMING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of his delighted friends and neighbors in The Woodlands, Texas, and all the constituents of the 8th Congressional District of Texas, I rise today to proudly congratulate Thomas E. White on becoming the 18th Secretary of the Army.

Rebuilding America's national security for the 21st Century is a top priority for President George W. Bush. Seeking vision, executive leadership, and Army experience, our President chose wisely in his nomination for Secretary of the Army—as did the United States Senate in confirming Secretary White.

This Detroit, Michigan native will lead a dedicated work force of more than one million active duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve soldiers who, with the support of 270,000 civilian employees, proudly comprise the U.S. Army today. As the former Chairman and CEO for Enron Operations Corporation headquartered in Houston, Texas, Secretary White now holds the responsibility for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management.

The seriousness and respect with which he approaches this awesome responsibility was reflected during his Senate confirmation hearings when he stated, "Taking care of people is a sacred duty I will bear if confirmed as Secretary."

A proud graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the four objectives Secretary White has identified for his tenure are right on target: investing in people, assuring readiness, transforming every aspect of the entire Army—doctrine, training, leadership, infrastructure, and more—in a holistic manner, and adopting sound business practices.

Secretary White is exceptionally well qualified for this job. Commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1967, he rose to the rank of Brigadier General in 1990. His distinguished 23-year career as an Army officer included two tours of service in Vietnam, command of the 11th Ar-

mored Cavalry Regiment in Germany, a number of assignments on the Army Staff, and finally, service as Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell.

Finally, and perhaps more important than all of these things, Secretary White believes strongly in his family, describing them as "my supporting foundation." His devotion to his wife Susan and three children—Katie, Tommy, and Chuck—is worthy of imitation in our country today.

On behalf of the entire congressional delegation from the great State of Texas, and for those who wish to restore a strong and vigorous national defense led by the United States Army, I wish the very best for this extremely capable and dedicated public servant. I am confident that Secretary White will serve this nation with honor, integrity, and success.

HONORING CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON OF THE BEECH LADY BUCCANEERS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Beech High School Lady Buccaneers. The Lady Buccaneers had a tremendous season by winning the 2001 Class AAA girls softball state championship.

Residents of Hendersonville, Tennessee, can be proud of their Lady Buccaneers. The team went 45–6 this season and displayed remarkable perseverance and resilience. This season's state championship marks the second time since 1997 the team has won the tournament. And the Lady Bucs have reached the championship game four times during that span.

The Lady Bucs won the finale in dramatic fashion by scoring two runs against their opponents in the top of the 10th inning. The final score was 2–1, with Beech outdistancing another fine Middle Tennessee team, the Columbia Lady Lions.

I commend the Lady Buccaneers and their head coach, Kristi Brinkley, for a fine season and an outstanding win. The following are members of the 2001 state champion Lady Buccaneers; Brittany Barry, Marley Birdwell, Courtney Boynton, Amy Chatham, Casey Duke, Nicole Eckley, Jennifer Grybash, Camille Harris, Cristin James, Courtney Langston, Carissa Lowery, Ashley Sinyard, Brittney Sinyard, Allie Smith, Kristin Stanfill and Amber Warren. Wayne Smith and Mary Day Reynolds also serve as the team's assistant coaches.

HONORING ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to St. Patrick's Church in San Francisco as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Located in the same neighborhood where it was founded, St. Patrick's has been steadfast in meeting

the spiritual needs of its parishioners even as the neighborhood has changed around it. Recently seismically retrofitted, it is my honor to congratulate St. Patrick's as it prepares for the next 150 years.

The founding of St. Patrick's was part of the boom that accompanied the Gold Rush; the dramatic increase in population required a similar increase in services. As housing was constructed and new businesses opened their doors, Father John Maginnis held St. Patrick's first mass in a rented hall in 1851. Within a few months, a temporary church's future expansion. Construction began in 1870, and on March 17, 1872 the new church was built nearby. By 1854, it became evident that St. Patrick's would need a larger home, and a lot was purchased for the church's future expansion. Construction began in 1870, and on March 17, 1872 the new church was dedicated at its current location on Mission Street between Third and Fourth Streets.

Like much of San Francisco, the church was destroyed in the earthquake and subsequent fire of 1906. Though it temporarily did not have a home, it did have a calling. St. Patrick's deferred its own full reconstruction in order to minister to the immediate needs of the city. When the current building was completed and dedicated in 1914, it quickly became a San Francisco landmark. Beautifully designed under the supervision of Monsignor John Roberts, the church is decorated in the Irish national colors and tells the story of St. Patrick and other Irish saints.

Throughout its history, St. Patrick's has served the community. In the first year of the Parish, St. Patrick's worked with the Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Maryland to run the St. Vincent's School for Girls and the St. Patrick's School for Boys. In 1927, Father Rogers built the Tir-Na-Nog (Gaelic for "land of youth") men's shelter. When the Boys and Girls schools were closed in 1964 due to changing neighborhood demographics, St. Patrick's helped to build the Alexis Apartments for the elderly on the same site. The church provides meals, housing, clothing, and furniture to those in need.

The congregation of St. Patrick's has changed over the years but its commitment to serving those who come through its doors has never wavered. The church was originally composed of Irish immigrants and their descendants. In the middle of this century, the parishioners came increasingly from Spanish-speaking countries. More recently, it has been the City's Filipino population that has found a home at St. Patrick's. Its downtown location and status as a tourist destination also ensure a diverse group of worshippers on any particular Sunday.

Around St. Patrick's, the buildings have grown higher and the rents more expensive; its neighbors now include a luxury hotel and a billion dollar entertainment complex. St. Patrick's, through, remains an oasis in the middle of a bustling city, tending to the poor and those in need for 150 years. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate St. Patrick's Church on this Anniversary and to thank Monsignor Fred Bitanga and all of the staff at St. Patrick's for their work in our City.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FAIRNESS ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to re-introduce the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act. Last year many of my constituents were placed into a special hazard flood area that requires them to purchase flood insurance that can cost over \$1,000 per year.

These residents were not notified that they would be required to purchase flood insurance until two months or less before the maps became effective, even though the law is supposed to give them six months notice and ample time to purchase flood insurance. Needless to say, this took many of my constituents by surprise when they were required to purchase costly insurance at a moments notice, having not seen flooding in decades or even a lifetime.

Several residents who did not believe that were in the flood zone hired surveyors at their own expense, and many residents continue to hire surveyors. The private surveyors' data has resulted in removal of homes from the special hazard flood area, thus removing them from their obligation to purchase flood insurance. In the long run, while these residents are not required to purchase flood insurance, they have spent over \$200 each for surveyor costs. Unfortunately, this cost burden is the responsibility of the property owner. They were told by FEMA that under current law property owners who challenge the presumed flood classification are responsible for the surveyor expense even though the incorrect classification is no fault of their own.

Clearly, the National Flood Insurance Program needs to be revised to give homeowners more notice, due process, and financial protection when they succeed in removing their property from the base flood elevation classification. That is why I am proposing the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act.

The National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act does the following:

The bill improves the existing program by requiring the FEMA Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer

It also requires the Director to notify by registered mail, rather than first class mail, the Chief Executive Officer of each community of FEMA's response to the community's appeal of the flood insurance rate maps. This change will ensure that the community receives the notice of changes and has ample time to comply with the map changes within the statutory effective date.

The bill improves upon current law by requiring the Director to notify by first class mail each owner of property affected by the changes in the flood insurance rate maps. Currently, the community is responsible for making sure that the residents are aware of the flood map changes. Requiring FEMA to notify residents expedites the process by eliminating the middleman.

Finally, it requires FEMA to reimburse a resident or property owner for reasonable

costs incurred in connection with a surveyor or engineer for a successful request to be removed from the special hazard flood area to the Director. This does not include legal services incurred by the resident.

It is my hope that this legislation will allow communities to work more effectively with FEMA to ensure that residents are given sufficient, fair, and timely notice if they are required to purchase flood insurance and to ensure that homeowners are not held financially liable when a change in a community's flood insurance rate map does not affect their property. With original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, I hope we can see this common sense solution come to fruition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to explain my absence from the House on Saturday, May 26. After the Senate passed its version of the tax cut bill on Wednesday of that week, the Senate version and the House version were sent to conference committee to produce a compromise final bill that both houses would vote on.

Following Senate passage, most observers expected the conference report to be ready for a final vote on Thursday, or at the very latest on Friday. However, negotiations dragged on with members receiving only periodic, gloomy updates. Finally, an agreement was announced late Friday night. I spent the entire night in my office waiting for a vote that was promised by 2 or 3 a.m. No vote was called.

At 8 a.m. Saturday, I boarded an Amtrak train to attend my son's graduation from the Hill School in Pottstown, PA later in the morning. This was the last train that I could take and still make my son's graduation. The House voted on the bill about two hours after I left Washington. I apologize to my constituents for not being able to vote on what I believe to be a very flawed tax bill, but I believe the vast majority will understand why I chose not to be there.

Had I been present to vote, I would have voted against the tax bill. Not because I don't think there should be a tax cut, but because this one is simply too big, is heavily tilted to the wealthy, is filled with fiscal gimmicks, and threatens to plunge this country back into deficit spending.

I support an immediate rebate to the American people, and actually supported a larger rebate than was in the bill from the outset of the tax debate. I also conceptually support several other items in the tax cut such as fixing the marriage penalty, reforming the estate tax and providing tuition tax credits. However this bill simply went overboard and threatens the fiscal discipline we have shown over the last several years.

The folly of this tax cut will be shown as the President tries to pay for items like increased