

visits as those made to State and National Parks and wilderness areas combined.

In my home State of New Jersey, tourism is a \$31 billion industry, supporting over 836,000 jobs and generating \$17.7 billion in wages. The vast majority of that revenue is generated by the millions of people who visit our 127 miles of shoreline on an annual basis. These projects provide the businesses and residents located along our shore and driving our economy an important layer of protection from ocean storms. It also lowers Federal flood insurance premiums and reduces the number of claims. Finally, these projects provide vital habitat for numerous species of plants and animals and often protect vital coastal habitats such as wetlands or fresh-water resources.

The Coastal Restoration Act is needed to maintain the Federal program so we can continue to protect and restore our beaches as the national treasures they are.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Boyd Jenkins, who lost his life near Al-Andar province while on active duty with the U.S. Navy in Iraq on May 2, 2004.

Jenkins honorably served his country for 15 years and was a member of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14 of the Seabees. While he was a member of the reserves he also served as a member of the Martin County Field Operations Team. It was Jenkins' intention to enter full time active duty service sometime in the future. He gave his life defending and protecting the United States from terrorism and bringing freedom and democracy to the people of Iraq who have only known tyranny.

Petty Officer Jenkins is survived by his father, David Jenkins, Rockledge, FL, his wife, Elizabeth Jenkins, and his stepmother, Linda Jenkins.

President Lincoln once wrote that as a nation we should "... have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty." Robert dared to do his duty and in so doing he gave the ultimate sacrifice for our continued freedom. We owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FRANK A. PARTLOW, JR.

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Frank A. Partlow, Jr. has shown outstanding service and contributions to the United States Government Printing Office (GPO) during his tenure beginning November 29, 2002; and

Whereas, because of his distinguished career, Frank was asked to serve as the Chief of Staff to the Public Printer of the United States, Bruce R. James; and

Whereas, Frank is a solid leader and demonstrated the ability to effectively juggle many competing priorities. In addition to advising the Public Printer on all aspects of the GPO's business, he also directed strategic planning for the GPO.

Whereas, until his retirement from the United States as an Army Brigadier General in 1990, Frank served as the Director of Estimates of the Defense Intelligence Agency, U.S. Arms Control Delegation in Geneva and saw combat with an infantry division in Vietnam. He is a graduate from the U.S. Military Academy; and

Whereas, Frank is a team player, known for his integrity, fairness, principles, dedication, and solid steady demeanor—he has made GPO a better place. He has served the GPO and our country as a true patriot, and we extend our thanks to him for his service, and wish him all the best for continued success in his retirement; and

Therefore, I join with members of Congress and their staff in recognizing Frank A. Partlow, Jr. for his exceptional work and immense contributions, and in wishing him well in all his endeavors.

IN HONOR OF JOHN "DOC" FENICK

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John "Doc" Fenick for his years of dedicated public service to his community. Dr. Fenick was honored by the City of Carteret with the naming of the city clock tower on Friday, May 28, 2004, in Carteret, New Jersey.

Dr. Fenick moved to the City of Carteret in 1958, after his service in the United States Air Force during World War II. He was honorably discharged with the rank of first lieutenant, and began his work as a family doctor in Carteret. Dedicated to helping those less fortunate and others within his community, Dr. Fenick provided free physicals for the American Legion and local youth for sports purposes as well as other programs. During his 35 years of practice, he worked closely with the First Aid Squad and Rahway Hospital, where he served as the chairman of the family practice and president of the hospital medical staff.

Dr. Fenick's passion to improve the quality of life for the people in Carteret led him to be elected Mayor. Under his leadership, he helped the City of Carteret obtain funding for the current Police and Fire Department station. He also implemented the Ethnic Day Celebration, which has become an annual event honoring the people in the county and borough.

Dr. Fenick has displayed his leadership skills, serving as the Democratic committeeman, president of the Rotary Club, president of the Honorary PBA, and vice commander of the Catholic War Veterans. He is also a lifelong member of the American Legion, Elks Club, and an honorary member of the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Company #1.

For his outstanding work and dedication, Dr. Fenick has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Andrew J. Hila Community Service Award, the Rahway Hospital Humanitarian Award, and was honored with a Joint Legislative Resolution for his work with the American Legion, "Remembering Pearl Harbor Day."

Mr. Fenick received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and his degree in Medicine from George Washington University Medical School.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John "Doc" Fenick for his distinguished public service, his dedication to promoting a better quality of life for the residents of Carteret, and his outstanding leadership and devotion to his community.

INTRODUCING THE SMALL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2004

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Small Disaster Assistance Act of 2004. This legislation is critically needed. All too often, communities are denied federal assistance from natural disasters because the number of people affected by the disaster do not meet an arbitrary threshold which fails to consider human needs.

An unofficial threshold exists under current Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations that require a minimum of 100 homes to be destroyed or receive major damage during a natural disaster for a major disaster declaration to be warranted by the president. Some may argue that, on the surface, this is a fair regulation. But in practice, it is not. In practice, thousands of Americans are forced to pick up the pieces following a natural disaster with no help from their government.

Every year, thousands of Americans have their homes damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Yet, the Federal government fails them when it denies a state's request for federal emergency assistance regardless of the number affected.

Just last August, hundreds of my constituents in Riviera Beach and Palm Beach Gardens, Florida were left in the dark and heat—literally—when three tornadoes touched down in Palm Beach County. I, along with Florida's two Senators and Palm Beach County's Congressional delegation, worked with Florida's governor and urged the President to issue a major disaster declaration.

The economic impact of the storms, combined with continued rain, was estimated to be between \$70 million and \$80 million. To make matters worse, many of those affected by the storm were unable to depend on insurance for relief and assistance in recovering from the storm. According to the joint assessment that was done at the time by FEMA, the State of Florida, and Palm Beach County, 81 percent of the homeowners affected were uninsured. For the uninsured, federal assistance was virtually the only way for them to recover.

The effect of the storm was drastically compounded when the historical economic and social hardships of the communities most affected were included in the assessment. Although it is difficult to place a dollar amount

on this reality, such consideration was certainly appropriate in this instance.

Nevertheless, our request was denied. In his letter to Florida's Governor, Undersecretary for Preparedness and Response Michael Brown's denial noted that the extent of the damage in Palm Beach County was "not of the severity and magnitude" to warrant a disaster declaration. This was a response that I found to be quite troubling.

There is no difference between a home that is destroyed during a disaster when less than 100 homes are affected and a home that is destroyed during a disaster when 1,000 homes are affected. To a family who loses its home because it happens to be located in the wrong place at the wrong time, their life comes to a screeching halt by no fault of their own.

The Small Disaster Assistance Act amends the major disaster assistance title of the Stafford Act to provide assistance for disasters where 100 or fewer homes receive major damage to or are destroyed during a natural disaster. My bill requires the President to give special consideration to areas that are historically and economically disadvantaged, have a median family income below the national, state, or local average, high unemployment, a large population of uninsured homeowners or renters, and a large elderly population.

The bill places a limitation of relief at \$1 million for disasters where less than 50 homes qualify for assistance, and \$2 million for disasters where between 51 and 100 homes qualify for assistance. These numbers were generated from the national averages of disasters where 100 or less homes qualify for assistance.

This level of authorization will cover the clear majority of small disasters. In instances where more assistance is needed, the bill gives the President the authority to exceed the limitation if (A) continued disaster assistance is needed, (B) there is a continuing risk to public safety, or (C) necessary assistance will not otherwise be provided on a timely basis.

When mechanisms do not exist in our public policy to help those in need, then it's time for us to change our laws. Failing to provide the President with the ability to authorize assistance to smaller disasters is just plain irresponsible. My legislation provides such authority. I ask that it be brought swiftly to the floor for consideration, and I urge my colleagues to support my efforts.

PERSONNEL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following: Rollcall vote 213, on Ordering the Previous Question, in providing for the consideration of the joint resolution H.J. Res. 83; Rollcall vote 214, on Agreeing to the Resolution in providing for consideration of the joint resolution H.J. Res. 83; Rollcall vote 215, on Ordering the Previous Question, in providing for the consideration of H.R. 444; Rollcall vote 216, on Agreeing to the Pryce (OH) Amendment to H.R. 444; Rollcall vote 217, on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of the

bill H.R. 444; I would have voted "nay" on each measure. I ask unanimous consent that my statement be included in the RECORD immediately following the votes.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Michael R. Creighton Weldon, a Private with the United States Army, who lost his life as a result of a suicide bombing attack near the city of Najaf in Iraq on March 27, 2004.

Weldon had just completed his first year of uniformed service to his country. He was a member of 3rd Infantry Division assigned to Company A and had been in country since January, 2004. He was one of four soldiers killed in the terrorist attack. He gave his life defending and protecting the United States from terrorism and bringing freedom and democracy to the people of Iraq who have only known tyranny.

Private Weldon choose to follow in the footsteps of another American hero, his mother, Jean Weldon who is a retired Army Sergeant Major.

This 20-year-old soldier was striving to be the best soldier he could be. In his sacrifice of service to his country, he succeeded in bringing honor to his family, his unit and his nation.

President Lincoln once wrote that as a nation we should "... have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty." Michael dared to do his duty and in so doing he gave the ultimate sacrifice for our continued freedom. We owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING R.C. DELA CRUZ

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, R.C. Dela Cruz has completed his education at St. Clairsville High School in the class of 2004; and

Whereas, R.C. Dela Cruz was a National Honor Society member and a National Honor Roll Member. His hard work and dedication earned him the St. Clairsville Chamber of Commerce 4.0 Award, the Ohio Valley Athletic Academic Award, and recognition in the National Society of High School Scholars; and

Whereas, R.C. Dela Cruz was a member of the baseball, football, and swim teams. As the co-captain of the football team R.C. earned the Most Valuable Player award, the East Ohio District Football Special Mention, and the Times Leader Athlete of the Week Honorable Mention for both his offensive and defensive positions; and

Whereas, R.C. Dela Cruz is to be commended for the dedication and excellence he displayed while attending St. Clairsville High School; and

Whereas, R.C. Dela Cruz has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm and confidence;

Therefore, I join with the family and friends of R.C., and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating R.C. Dela Cruz, graduate of St. Clairsville High School class of 2004, for his outstanding performance in school. We wish you the best of luck in all your pursuits.

FALLEN HEROS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, America honors those who gave their lives to keep this country free and bring the world peace by defending the helpless, promoting democracy throughout the world and protecting the freedoms and liberties we enjoy as Americans. Those who defend this country, after all, are men and women from every town and every walk of life.

These honored dead have not died in vain, as Abraham Lincoln solemnly pledged during the most divisive war this Nation had yet faced. We have a long, proud history of service and sacrifice given by those men and women who quit the safety of everyday life and friends "to hazard all in freedom's fight." Today, we have such men and women deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere around the world, and we hold them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

The oath to defend the Constitution has been sworn by every soldier, sailor, flyer, and Marine, living and dead. On Memorial Day, we recall those who gave everything to preserve the security and liberty of those they loved and those they never knew. I would hope this day is only one of many on which the living remember and salute those who served our Nation in uniform and now lie at eternal rest.

We have honored their graves and their lives since the end of our own Civil War. In 1866, spontaneous rites of remembrance were held in Carbondale, Illinois, in Columbus, Mississippi, and Waterloo, New York. The families of the men killed in that war came together to place flowers by their gravestones. The veterans joined this practice, honoring their fallen comrades with their own recollections of courage and devotion on battlefields. Ever since then, veterans and their families have led the observance of Memorial Day.

On this day, it is a time for us to remember our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors, and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice by visiting the cemeteries where they lie beneath small flags of red, white, and blue. It is also a time to renew our promise to the widows, widowers, and orphans of those lost in war. And it is time to renew our fight for our veterans because those still living deserve the benefits that have been promised to them by a grateful nation.

On Memorial Day 2004, as our young men and women are fighting overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, our country dedicates a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., finally paying tribute to those who fought over a half century ago. In fact, the 60th Anniversary of