

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

the invasion of Normandy by the Allied forces (known as D-Day) is June 6, 2004. This new Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the Memorial is a monument to the spirit and sacrifice of the American people. On this day, we honor them and the many others who died in service to our country, and the contributions all of them have made for us.

Service of this country in uniform has been, since the beginning, one of the greatest sources of unity and equality, in our national life. More than half a century ago, President Franklin Roosevelt reminded the American people that, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them." I hope on this Memorial Day, we as a Nation, and each of us as individuals, will take to heart President Roosevelt's reminder that it is the sacred duty and great privilege of the living to honor and remember those who have died to protect the American ideals of freedom and democracy. The men and women who have died in service to America and to all of us deserve no less.

HONORING LESTER CROWN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Lester Crown on the occasion of his 79th birthday.

One of Chicago's most respected business and civic leaders, Mr. Crown Lester got an early start with the family business, the Material Service Corporation, working in the quarries as a teenager. He then enrolled in Northwestern University and earned a degree in chemical engineering in 1946.

After teaching mathematics at Northwestern for a year, Mr. Crown went on to receive his MBA from the Harvard School of Business in 1949. After working as a research chemist, he eventually returned to the family company. Today, Mr. Crown serves as the chairman of both Material Service Corporation and of Henry Crown and Company.

In addition to his achievements in the business world, Mr. Crown has been extremely active in numerous philanthropic and civic organizations. Both he and his family are strong supporters of the arts, education, Jewish interests, health care, and community development.

He serves on the boards of Northwestern University, Children's Memorial Medical Center, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Jewish Theological Seminary, General Dynamics, Maytag Corporation, and was recently elected chairman of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, just to name a few of the organizations to which he so generously gives his time and energy.

On top of his business and civic accomplishments, Mr. Crown has also become the patriarch of a large and growing family. He and his wife Renée are proud parents of seven children and 22 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Lester Crown has gained well-deserved respect in both the business world and in the community. His generosity has touched many people, in Chicago and beyond. We in Chicago are proud to share our city with someone who truly values public service. I thank Lester Crown for his service to the public, and wish him and his family continued good fortune on the occasion of his 79th birthday.

IN MEMORY OF ALAN BRENNER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan Brenner who passed away May 16th 2004 after a prolonged battle with cancer. He has been an active member of our community and will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Jeannie, son, Michael, stepchildren Alex, Scott, and Diane Wilsdon, and ten grandchildren.

Born and raised in Palo Alto, California, Alan was no stranger to the nearby Monterey Bay, as he completed his basic training at the former Fort Ord. After serving for two years in the United States Army, Alan began his lifelong career in the hospitality industry. He returned to the Monterey Peninsula in 1971 to become the General Manager of the La Playa Hotel in Carmel. In 1978 he began managing the new Monterey Conference Center, where his accomplishments led his colleagues to name him "World's Best Convention Services Manager" in 1979.

Alan's famous generosity led to his involvement in several local organizations such as the Pacific Repertory Theater, Forest Theater Guild in Carmel, the Carmel Rotary Club, Pacheco Club, and All Saints Episcopal Church. He often took on leadership roles, and was an active supporter of local artists and musicians. The Carmel Bach Festival board benefited from his eleven years of service, and he put in countless volunteer hours helping to renovate the Sunset Theater while on, the Building Committee for the Sunset Theater Project.

Even with his busy schedule at home, Alan never missed a chance to travel with his wife, Jeannie. They visited such diverse places as Bhutan, Niger, and India, always eager to meet new people. Alan and Jeannie made first contact with the Kumbi people in Irian Jaya, and during a trip last fall to China met the Miao people. Alan's travels and interactions with other cultures truly made him feel connected to the global community in a way that few people have the chance to experience.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Alan's many accomplishments, and I commend him for his lifelong dedication to his community and friends. He was a remarkable figure, and his memory will live on in the many people whose lives he has touched. I join the Monterey Bay community, and friends and family in honoring this truly admirable man and friend for all of his lifelong achievements.

HONORING ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, every year in my district, I ask students in grades 8 and 12 to participate in an essay contest. This year's contest focused on the issue of combating terrorism.

I am pleased that so many students chose to enter this essay contest. Unfortunately, however, there can only be one winner in each group: 8th and 12th grade. This year's 8th grade winner was Kevin Pohl, who attends St. Pius X School in Lombard, Illinois. The 12th grade winner was Stefanie Panno, who attends Addison Trail High School in Addison, Illinois.

This is Mr. Kevin Pohl's essay, entitled "What is the Role of the United Nations in Fighting Terrorism?":

"As of September 28, 2001, acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1373, reaffirming its unequivocal condemnation of the terrorist action which took place in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania on September 11, and expressed its determination to prevent all such acts."

Violence, war, hatred, and terrorism are imposed for many reasons. The role of the United Nations is to protect the rights of all throughout the world from terrorist acts. It is their responsibility to protect the lives of the innocents and the oppressed. People all over the world are at risk from those who seek violence to solve world problems. The United Nations, in contrast, is elected to control and eliminate violence and protect the people. It is hoped that the majority of the people believe the same. People should not have to hide in their homes, take shelter from bombs every day or keep their children inside for fear of attack. This way of life must come to an end. The United Nations was created to this end.

The United Nations takes upon itself this great responsibility, and undertakes this role in the fight against terrorism. The United Nations' officials are charged with the task of international well-being. It is their responsibility to protect the world from terrorist acts. Therefore, they must work every day to defeat terrorism, and keep a close eye on world events. Good intelligence is the key to the method used by the United Nations in fighting terrorism. Codes, practices, and the monitoring of secret communications among military units are vital tools and essential in implementing Resolution 1373. The United Nations has served as a listening post for intelligence-gathering and espionage for many years. However, the members of the United Nations must also cooperate to use their advanced techniques to monitor, search, track, and analyze communications that are carried on the Internet by terrorists. Collecting this essential information comes at a risk. The United Nations has to be careful, so as not to alienate friendly nations or inhibit their cooperation in obtaining further information.

The United Nations has to make sure that the entire international community agrees