

and Brad Thornburg. Northwest Cabarrus coach Joe Hubbard was quoted in the Times-News saying, "We couldn't stop the first inning; it just snowballed on us."

The series' Most Valuable Player Brent Haynes stepped up to the plate in the bottom of the fifth inning with runners on second and third. Haynes hit a ground ball down the first base line and accumulated a RBI as Brad Thornburg whisked across home plate. Much to the dismay of the Northwest Cabarrus fans, the game ended under the 10-run rule.

After the dominating victory imposed by the Patriots, Coach Smith should be credited for much of the team's success. After coming off of a tough loss in game two, Coach Smith encouraged the players to play smart baseball instead of imitating the starlike swings of Barry Bonds or Sammy Sosa. Smart baseball for this team was to hit ground balls, which proved to payoff. Coach Smith had a strong coaching staff behind him that consisted of Eddie Wood, Paul Bishop, Nathan Holcomb, and Andrew Thomas.

Although the players' hard work and commitment to team excellence helped them succeed, they would be the first to tell you that the key to their success was impeccable leadership. We congratulate the players: Jimmy Robbins, Michael Pernell, Dave Sappelt, John Crawford, Jonathon Thrasher, Jonathan Shields, Michael Parker, Brad Thornburg, Jay Liddle, Reid Straughan, Richard Allred, Roy Albright, Brent Haynes, Thomas Sappelt, Gabe Shoffner, Cale Rogers, Zach Robinson, Luke Vandall, score keeper Stephanie Smith, and team manager Holden Walker. Each member of the team played a valuable role in their commendable season, which ended with a 27-5 record and a state title.

This 3-A state baseball championship brings pride back to the baseball program at Southern Alamance, and we congratulate Principal Kent Byrd, Athletic Director David Vaughn, the community of the Southern Alamance Patriots and most importantly the team and coaching staff for a job well done.

GOOD ADVICE ON HURRICANE PREPARATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as the people of the Caribbean prepare for another chaotic hurricane season, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues some important advice on the preparation and prevention efforts in the region. During last summer's hurricane season the small island nations of Grenada, Jamaica, and Haiti were severely impacted with terrible destruction of essential infrastructure and significant loss of life. This catastrophe caused the Members of the last Congress to include \$100 million in relief assistance in the supplemental appropriations bill for Florida.

Our neighbors in the Caribbean were harder hit than even Florida. Homes, lives, and economic prospects were destroyed in the wake of hurricanes that beat down on the island nations of the Caribbean and the United States southern coastline. Many were shocked and surprised by the destructive force of these nat-

ural phenomena. Many felt the devastating blows of the hurricane splitting and eroding homes, towns, and communities. Others witnessed the indiscriminate winds that ripped roofs from homes, merchandise from store fronts and children from homes.

Hurricane season routinely strikes the Caribbean harder than the U.S. The fragile economies of these noble neighbors too often succumb to the might and power of these natural disasters. As staples of their economy, tourism and agriculture suffer significantly in the wake of the floods, winds, and aftermath of a destructive hurricane. The effect of hurricanes on the United States alone is often breathtaking and requires a mammoth community mobilization and effort of the surrounding states. Imagine its impact on the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and St. Vincent.

As we enter this annual season of threat in 2005, this Congress should take the lead in preparing our Caribbean neighbors for the events to come. We should be ensuring that the resources are available to meet the humanitarian needs of the region. We should be securing the supplies and gear necessary for recovery. We should be certain that the regional infrastructure can handle the health and welfare needs that will arise.

CaribNews recently hosted a Caribbean conference in the Bronx on the subject of disaster preparedness. They focused on the planning and preparation of the region for the next major natural disaster. In a recent article, they established some important steps that should be taken to ensure that the region is prepared and ready to deal with the consequences of this year's hurricane season.

I submit for the RECORD the following editorial from the CaribNews on their conferences and recommendations for addressing the challenges of hurricane preparation.

WE NEED TO BE READY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES

Preparation, they say, is the mother protection. In this case, we are talking about protecting lives, property, and in many ways the future against the ravages of Mother Nature.

In the Caribbean and the South and the southwest of the United States, the need is to prepare against the often-ferocious high winds and the rain of hurricanes. And now that we are into hurricane season, and with the experts predicting some of the strongest weather patterns in recent years, it's important that the U.S. and the Caribbean nations be ready for what may befall us.

Just the other day, Adolfo Carrion, the Bronx Borough President, and this newspaper focused the city's spotlight on disaster preparedness. That was done at a highly successful Caribbean conference in the Bronx and participants in a panel discussion emphasized that we can't wait until a hurricane or other natural disasters strike and then respond.

After all, the geological and geographic features of the Caribbean archipelago almost guarantee that a hurricane can strike at any time during the second half of the year. While we can prevent trade conflicts, end political rows or avoid military adventures, there is precious little we can do to stop hurricanes, earthquakes, or floods from hitting us, affecting all those who live in a particular country or the region.

Last year's devastation in Grenada brought on by Hurricane Ivan was a case in point. Not only was it unstoppable but its effects will be felt for many years to come. The floods, which took thousands of lives in

the Dominican Republic and Haiti, could not have been thwarted by human effort but the pain and suffering was prolonged by the inability to respond effectively once the tragedy had occurred.

Similarly, the damage caused by Ivan and other hurricanes in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Florida, St. Vincent and the Cayman Islands spoke more of the resilience of these countries to bounce back and the relatively good fortune that prevented them from being struck a mightier blow than to anything else.

We shouldn't forget too that Dominica was hit but spared extensive damage when an earthquake shook the Caribbean island. Unlike hurricane warnings, earthquake prediction didn't have any value in Dominica's case.

That's why the meeting in the Bronx was of such significance and why Caribbean nations, the international community and immigrant groups in New York, Miami, Boston, Hartford, and elsewhere must plan ahead in case the vulnerability of the small islands are exposed once again.

For as 2004 showed us, the twinkling of the proverbial eye and the decades long effort to build a country and put it in very good shape to propel living standards forward can be undone in a matter of hours.

Clearly, because natural disasters are inevitable, the emphasis must be placed on minimizing damage and responding to the needs of those affected.

To begin with Caribbean and U.S. governments must take measures to lessen pain, suffering and damage. Mutual assistance and self-help scheme at the institutional and individual levels are vital and must be integrated into sound natural disaster strategies. Building codes must be enacted and enforced to limit the effects of the troubles we have seen in recent years, not simply in the Caribbean but in the U.S. as well when entire villages come tumbling down.

It's incumbent upon home owners and business places whose structures were built several years ago or even recently to check to see to what extent their buildings can resist hurricane force winds, floods, or even seismic shocks.

Although Caribbean governments are already strapped for cash, they should consider providing tax incentives to property-owners to promote disaster mitigation. The tax system can be an important tool to achieve the goal of increasing the number of buildings that can withstand the winds and the rains spawned by hurricanes.

As for the Diaspora and the international community, not to mention local and state governments in New York State and other parts of the country, they must extend their disaster preparations schemes to include the Caribbean. After all, in places such as New York where hundreds of Caribbean immigrants live the inevitability of natural disasters is of great concern to many. So they must be included in the planning and the response.

Caribbean immigrants have in the past responded well and with alacrity to disasters in their respective homelands and in the region as a whole. But there is also an urgent need for a greater coordinated approach to relief.

The counterparts of the Bronx Borough President in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan should also consider the approach he adopted recently when he brought people and institutions together to consider the problem before it occur again. Assembling folks to discuss the potential perils ahead and putting mechanisms in place can go a long way in bringing relief after disaster has struck.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ROBERT
"CY" LAUGHTER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations and best wishes to one of my dearest friends, Robert "Cy" Laughter, on the upcoming occasion of his 80th birthday on July 26, 2005. As birthdays are often a time for reflection, I think it is fitting to pause and pay tribute to this truly remarkable man, and share some of his more memorable exploits. As a devoted husband, a father, grandfather and great-grandfather, industrious businessman, philanthropist, and veteran of World War II, Cy has truly led a full and distinguished life.

A life-long native of Dayton, Ohio—but to me an Honorary Hoosier—Cy is probably best known to his friends and neighbors as an industrialist and founder of the famous Bogie Busters Golf Tournament. Held for over 35 years in Dayton Ohio this charity tournament always drew a distinguished list of participants including a few former U.S. Presidents and Vice-Presidents, Cabinet members, Members of Congress, governors, athletes, celebrities and national business leaders. Numerous organizations, including the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Johnny Bench Scholarship Fund, the Dayton's Children's Medical Center, and the City of Dayton itself received invaluable financial support and recognition through the Bogie Busters Tournament thanks to Cy's extraordinary efforts.

Over the years, Cy has given of himself in other ways, most notably by serving on the board of directors of Wendy's International, and as a trustee for Sinclair Community College and Wright State University of Dayton Ohio. And when President George Herbert Walker Bush called, Cy did not hesitate to answer that call to duty and service on the Federal Home Loan Board and the Battlefields and Monument Commission; just as Cy did not hesitate to answer his Nation's call to service during World War II in which he served as a U.S. Army light infantry foot soldier, and was awarded the Purple Heart for serious injuries sustained in combat during the legendary Battle of the Bulge. Cy recently came to Washington, D.C., to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the D-day invasion and listening to him talk about his experiences during the war it was obvious how profoundly he was changed by those events and how proud he is to have been a small part of saving the world from oppression and tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to consider Cy Laughter one of my dearest friends, and I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cy's lifetime of service to our Nation. I'm sure that Cy's family, longtime friends and colleagues will also join me in wishing him many more years of happiness. Happy birthday, Mr. Laughter.

RECOGNIZING ASTELLAS PHARMA
ON OPENING ITS NORTH AMERICAN
HEADQUARTERS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. KIRK. I would like to recognize a very positive and significant development in the continuing growth of the biotech industry in Illinois. On April 1, 2005, Astellas Pharma U.S., Inc. officially opened its North American headquarters in my home Congressional district of Deerfield, Illinois.

Astellas Pharma U.S., Inc. is a new global company created by the merger of two leading pharmaceutical firms. Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc., based in Deerfield, and Yamanouchi Pharma America, Inc., based in New Jersey, merged their North American headquarter operations at Fujisawa's former headquarters in Deerfield, Illinois. This merger resulted in the creation and retention of a significant number of biotech industry related jobs for the State of Illinois and the 10th Congressional District. The merger of these two international pharmaceutical entities creates a global company with the mission of improving healthcare around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products.

In the past, this Deerfield based company has been an excellent corporate citizen and served the local healthcare community well. In addition to developing pharmaceutical therapies, Fujisawa's philanthropic activities included a large endowment to the Pediatric Dermatologic Research conducted through the Children's Memorial Institute for Education and Research. This particular act of philanthropy was the largest gift ever made to Children's Memorial Hospital by a corporation.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, I am aware of some of the life-saving therapies that Fujisawa and Yamanouchi already pioneered in areas such as solid organ transplantation, immunosuppression and urology. I look forward to working with the global firm of Astellas as it continues to tap the potential of the life sciences and support healthy living for people around the world. I congratulate the people of Astellas and wish them well in their efforts to make contributions to health and employment in Illinois.

ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF
VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to urge support for two bills that I have introduced that address the needs of our veterans. We have recently celebrated Flag Day, and I believe an appropriate way to celebrate Flag Day is to introduce bills that will help veterans in pursuing their education and gaining admission to state veterans homes.

My bill, H.R. 2365, the "Montgomery GI Bill Flexibility Act", improves education benefits. An important piece of the Fiscal Year 2003 Defense Authorization bill that Congress

passed was a provision that extends the time limit from 10 to 14 years for members of the Selected Reserve to use their GI Bill education benefits. Life in 2005 can make it difficult to finish an education in 10 years. Many times, veterans with families, work commitments, and economic difficulties are unable to fulfill all their requirements to receive a degree or certification within the 10-year period, and Congress recognized this difficulty for members of the Selected Reserve. It is time to extend the number of years for all participants of the Montgomery GI Bill.

A veteran who is interested in seeing H.R. 2365 pass writes: "I served 8 years of active duty in the Army, including the Persian Gulf War. I am also a family member of an active duty service member. In support of my husband's military career, I have moved six times, currently planning move number 7, in the past 9 years. That, coupled with three babies, has made it difficult for me to use my GI Bill benefits." H.R. 2365 will ensure that more veterans are able to avail themselves of the educational opportunity that they have earned.

I have also introduced H.R. 3009, "A Guaranteed Home For Our Veterans Act", to address a problem that has been called to my attention by my constituents. One was told by his state veterans home in California that if he chose to transfer to his home state of Minnesota, he would have to wait a year in order to establish state residency before being accepted. Veterans should be able to transfer to any other state veterans home on a space-available basis. H.R. 3009 would make that change to save veterans from severe hardships if they want to move to be closer to their families.

Better Long Term Care and Education Benefits for our nation's veterans! I urge my colleagues to support these veterans' bills.

CONGRATULATING DR. GILBERTO
VELEZ AND PASTOR SAMUEL
RODRIGUEZ FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP
IN THE HISPANIC CHURCH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Gilberto Velez and Pastor Samuel Rodriguez for their leadership in the Hispanic Church.

Dr. Gilberto Velez, Policy Director for the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, was recently recognized by the Assemblies of God as one of America's premiere Pastors. Gilberto began what would eventually become the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia through a home Bible study in Laredo with a handful for people, in March of 1995. Just last week, the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia celebrated their 10th anniversary with a brand new 3,300 seat facility.

Because of its growth and vision, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference President Samuel Rodriguez has chosen the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia as the Evangelical Hispanic Church of the Year, a role model for other Hispanic Churches and Pastors to follow.

Through the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Pastor Rodriguez