

After earning his Associate of Arts degree from Sacramento City College, Sam continued his education at California State University, Sacramento. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in only three years of college study, despite working full time for the United States Postal Service throughout his undergraduate career. After concluding his undergraduate education, he proceeded to law school at McGeorge School of Law, where he graduated in 1977.

As a first-year lawyer that same year, Sam was hired as a Sacramento Deputy District Attorney. After two years of working in this capacity, he decided that civil litigation suited him better. Sam obtained a lateral appointment to the position of Deputy City Attorney in 1979, and was promoted to the top of the deputy attorney hierarchy in the minimum amount of time allotted for such advancements.

In 1994, after fifteen years of distinguished service in the City Attorney's office, Sam was appointed by the Sacramento City Council as the 36th City Attorney in Sacramento's history. He has held that post for over 11 years, but last year Sam notified the City Council that he would be retiring no later than December 30, 2005.

Along with his impressive career achievements, Sam has also made substantial contributions to Sacramento through community involvement. The highlight of his community service occurred in 1981, when he undertook the management of a little league baseball team that had never enjoyed a winning season. As to be expected, Sam led the youngsters to a dominating 18-4 record by emphasizing teamwork and respect for others.

Mr. Speaker, as Sam's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate his admirable career, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most selfless and dedicated citizens. Although his legal career may be over, Sam's involvement in his community is, fortunately for us, far from complete. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Samuel L. Jackson continued success in all his future endeavors.

COAST GUARD YARD, BALTIMORE,
MD

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to call special attention to the United States Coast Guard and in particular the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore.

I have always said that I considered the U.S. Coast Guard to be America's secret weapon. After their heroic efforts played before us in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, I believe the secret is out. For over two hundred years, our nation's Coast Guard has patrolled and protected our coast lines, which today totals over 95,000 miles. Fulfilling incredible missions including maritime security, search and rescue, drug interdiction, search and rescue, and recreational boater safety, all Americans are indebted to our Coasties for their dedication and service each and every day.

And for over a century, Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore has served as the backbone of the Coast Guard providing its primary shipbuilding and major repair facility.

I am proud to represent the Yard and the admirable people who work there. Their commitment to the quality of work, excellence, vision and ingenuity makes this Yard an invaluable asset to the Coast Guard. Ship building and repairs require special individuals with highly specialized skills. This is a vanishing art form, particularly for a working Yard and workers that continually live up to the motto of "Service to the Fleet."

For budgetary reasons, the Coast Guard and Yard are planning to cut 50 full time employee positions from the Yard. While I understand our difficult economic times, I am concerned that such a decision would be made when we are fighting a war on terrorism both here at home and abroad. There should be no doubt about the abilities and capabilities of the Coast Guard, and the personnel at the Yard are a vital link in that chain.

This week we will consider H.R. 889, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005. I offered an amendment to this legislation that would have restored \$9 million in funding to the Coast Guard Yard FY06 Budget to safeguard those highly specialized jobs. I am concerned that the loss of these skills in the Yard will not only harm my district and the local economy, but it will have a negative impact on the Coast Guard's ability to fulfill its missions in the future. Shipbuilders are not a dime a dozen and you cannot simply call your local temp agency for a new one. These are skills that require apprenticeships and work over years to master. When these jobs leave the area, I worry if we will be able to get them back should we need them at a future date.

Now is not the time to cut corners and jobs in this specialized workforce. Now is the time when we should fully fund the needs of the Coast Guard including the Yard to help them do their jobs and protect Americans.

The Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore has played an enormous role in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Reservists have provided port security in the Persian Gulf, allowing our troops and humanitarian aid to move in safely. They've been involved in telecommunications, boarding operations and search and rescue. The Yard also answered an urgent request from the U.S. Army and Marine Corps to quickly repair over a dozen old style bridge erection boats. These boats were refurbished and shipped to Iraq, allowing bridges to be built over the inland rivers permitting the transportation of personnel and supplies.

I am so proud of the work that has been accomplished at the Yard and the contributions that have been made. It is vitally important that we give them the tools and the money that they need to operate effectively and efficiently. I regret that the House Committee on Rules failed to make my amendment in order to restore this critical funding and I would hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in this fight in the future to correct this mistake.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT CHEN
SHUI-BIAN'S VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian will be staying for two nights in Miami en route to Central America; on his way back to Taiwan he will be staying overnight in San Francisco. During the last five years as president of Taiwan, Chen has gone on several state visits including trips to some of Taiwan's diplomatic allies. Last April President Chen visited the Vatican City to pay final respects to the late Pope John Paul II. I hope President Chen's stopovers in America this September will be both restful and useful to the exchange of ideas between himself and some of his American friends and supporters.

As a friend of the Taiwanese people, I believe that Taiwan has been unjustifiably denied its proper recognition in the international community. Taiwan is a sovereign state; it is a constructive global citizen and a dynamic democracy. Yet it is not a member of the United Nations. As the United Nations celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, it is time for the UN General Assembly to re-examine the issue of Taiwan's membership. I therefore urge my colleagues, friends and supporters of Taiwan to speak up on the issue of Taiwan's bid to join the UN. The world must not allow China, an authoritarian state, to continue to deny Taiwan UN membership.

As for Taiwan's relations with the United States, Taiwan enjoys the support of both the Bush Administration and Congress. U.S. presidents have all committed the United States to the Taiwan Relations Act and pledged support for Taiwan if it were to be attacked by China. Congress has also passed legislation voicing its support of Taiwan. In the mean time, the United States has continued to sell military articles to Taiwan in accordance with Taiwan's defense needs. In addition, we appreciate our strong trade relations with Taiwan. This September a Taiwan agricultural goodwill mission is touring the United States, pledging to buy up to more than \$3.1 billion of U.S. wheat, soybeans, corn and hide in 2006 and 2007. A letter of intent signing ceremony between members of the Taiwan mission and U.S. grain exporters was held on September 14 on the Hill.

Trade relations aside, the Taiwanese people have been standing firmly behind the United States after 9/11. Their government has made every effort to protect U.S. interests in Taiwan and cooperated with our intelligence agencies. It made monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund, the Pentagon Memorial Fund and most recently gave \$2 million to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Other signs of friendship include Taiwanese people sending their brightest students to study at our colleges and universities and a great majority of their tourists choosing to spend their dollars in American destinations.

As President Chen passes through America this September, we'd like him and his people to know that we greatly appreciate his country and have great fondness for his people and their friendship for us.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AT
HANDLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Handley Church of Christ for celebrating its 100th anniversary. This is a great accomplishment, and I am proud to have an establishment such as this in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

In 1905, J. Dan Thomas invited several families to meet at his house for a worship service; this was the first meeting of the congregation of the Handley Church of Christ. Soon after, the congregation grew and became too large for the Thomas home.

Throughout the years, the congregation continued to grow and with that came the need for more space. In 1919, the church moved to a frame building with seating for 60 people. With church membership listed as 150, there was still not sufficient room. The congregation has since stayed on that property and continually added to and remodeled the building.

Today, the sanctuary will seat 1,000 people and the property includes an educational building as well as a building consisting of classrooms. The church will commemorate its 100 years by unveiling a Texas State historical marker.

As its founders intended, the Handley Church of Christ endures today as an example of a pioneer institution which has adapted itself to new surroundings and times without compromising traditional beliefs and values. As one of Tarrant County's oldest churches, it occupies an important place in the Handley community today as a symbol of endurance, stability and service.

Congratulations to the congregation at Handley Church of Christ on their anniversary. One hundred years of worship is a milestone to be celebrated.

AN EXCELLENT OP-ED ARTICLE
ON HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an excellent op-ed article that appeared last week in the New York Times by David Brooks titled, "Katrina's Silver Lining." The op-ed article points out that the devastation which occurred earlier this month along the Gulf region now presents us with the challenge to address the roots of poverty in the United States.

Poverty was the underlying cause of the tragedy that occurred in Louisiana a couple of weeks ago. Many of the people who were unable to evacuate did not have the economic means to flee the hurricane that destroyed their city and countless lives. An individual's financial circumstance should not get in the way of life and death decisions. Low-income families should not be forced to risk their safety and well-being simply because they do not have the financial means to protect themselves.

Addressing the tragedy that occurred in New Orleans will take more than rebuilding the city's infrastructure. In order to ensure that the human suffering that has occurred never happens again, we need to address the high rates of poverty that exist in this Nation.

Every American should have the right to live a better life. We must ensure that everyone has the ability to adequately care for their families. Moreover, we need to ensure that every American has access to educational opportunities which lead to greater outcomes. And we must ensure that no one is forced to make a life and death decision based on their financial circumstance.

Early estimates suggest that thousands of Americans may have perished as a result of Hurricane Katrina and the events that occurred after the storm, while many others were injured. The families that were forced to remain in Louisiana during the storm have finally been evacuated and now faced with the difficult task of rebuilding their lives. Sadly, many of them are also desperately searching for missing loved ones.

In the wake of this disaster, let us move forward with an aggressive agenda to eradicate poverty in the United States. Let us rise to the challenge that Hurricane Katrina presented to us by removing the hurdles that force too many families to live in poverty. We can do this. The survivors of Hurricane Katrina, and the millions of other Americans who are living in poverty, deserve nothing less.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 8, 2005]

KATRINA'S SILVER LINING

(By David Brooks)

As a colleague of mine says, every crisis is an opportunity. And sure enough, Hurricane Katrina has given us an amazing chance to do something serious about urban poverty.

That's because Katrina was a natural disaster that interrupted a social disaster. It separated tens of thousands of poor people from the run-down, isolated neighborhoods in which they were trapped. It disrupted the patterns that have led one generation to follow another into poverty.

It has created as close to a blank slate as we get in human affairs, and given us a chance to rebuild a city that wasn't working. We need to be realistic about how much we can actually change human behavior, but it would be a double tragedy if we didn't take advantage of these unique circumstances to do something that could serve as a spur to antipoverty programs nationwide.

The first rule of the rebuilding effort should be: Nothing Like Before. Most of the ambitious and organized people abandoned the inner-city areas of New Orleans long ago, leaving neighborhoods where roughly three-quarters of the people were poor.

In those cultural zones, many people dropped out of high school, so it seemed normal to drop out of high school. Many teenage girls had babies, so it seemed normal to become a teenage mother. It was hard for men to get stable jobs, so it was not abnormal for them to commit crimes and hop from one relationship to another. Many people lacked marketable social skills, so it was hard for young people to learn these skills from parents, neighbors and peers.

If we just put up new buildings and allow the same people to move back into their old neighborhoods, then urban New Orleans will become just as rundown and dysfunctional as before.

That's why the second rule of rebuilding should be: Culturally Integrate. Culturally Integrate. Culturally Integrate. The only

chance we have to break the cycle of poverty is to integrate people who lack middle-class skills into neighborhoods with people who possess these skills and who insist on certain standards of behavior.

The most famous example of cultural integration is the Gautreaux program, in which poor families from Chicago were given the chance to move into suburban middle-class areas. The adults in these families did only slightly better than the adults left behind, but the children in the relocated families did much better.

These kids suddenly found themselves surrounded by peers who expected to graduate from high school and go to college. After the shock of adapting to the more demanding suburban schools, they were more likely to go to college, too.

The Clinton administration built on Gautreaux by creating the Moving to Opportunity program, dispersing poor families to middle-class neighborhoods in five other metropolitan areas. This time the results weren't as striking, but were still generally positive. The relocated parents weren't more likely to have jobs or increase their earnings (being close to job opportunities is not enough—you need the skills and habits to get the jobs and do the work), but their children did better, especially the girls.

The lesson is that you can't expect miracles, but if you break up zones of concentrated poverty, you can see progress over time.

In the post-Katrina world, that means we ought to give people who don't want to move back to New Orleans the means to disperse into middle-class areas nationwide. (That's the kind of thing Houston is beginning to do right now.)

There may be local resistance to the new arrivals—in Baton Rouge there were three-hour lines at gun shops as locals armed themselves against the hurricane victims moving to their area—but if there has ever been a moment when people may open their hearts, this is it.

For New Orleans, the key will be luring middle-class families into the rebuilt city, making it so attractive to them that they will move in, even knowing that their blocks will include a certain number of poor people.

As people move in, the rebuilding effort could provide jobs for those able to work. Churches, the police, charter schools and social welfare agencies could be mobilized to weave the social networks vital to resurgent communities. The feds could increase earned-income tax credits so people who are working can rise out of poverty. Tax laws should encourage business development.

We can't win a grandiose war on poverty. But after the tragedy comes the opportunity. This is the post-Katrina moment. Let's not blow it.

COMMENDING DEPAUL UNIVERSITY'S
RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of DePaul University of Chicago. Founded in 1898, DePaul is the nation's largest Catholic University. This institution has a long history of public service, and is continuing this tradition in its extraordinary response to Hurricane Katrina by offering compassion, assistance, and educational opportunities to students affected by this national crisis.