

program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms and floods, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act which would put the National Flood Insurance Program, an important program to the residents of Rhode Island, back on solid footing. Devastated by the impact of Hurricane Katrina, the National Flood Insurance Program has operated in deficits for over 2 years. This bill authorizes increased funds for the program and includes additional provisions to improve flood plain mapping. Under this legislation, FEMA is required to conduct a review of U.S. flood maps and make the necessary changes to ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness. We owe it to homeowners across the country to provide a fiscally sound insurance policy for natural disasters that create a flood crisis. In my district, the National Flood Insurance Program is essential to economic growth. My home state of Rhode Island saw a 15 percent increase in policy growth to the NFIP as many residents reside in coastal areas that would be threatened by a flood disaster. This bill can give homeowners in my district some peace of mind during storms and violent weather. Though questions remain over the cost of the optional wind coverage in the National Flood Insurance Program, I support the pending study by the General Accountability Office to investigate the financial viability of the wind program. I applaud Chairman FRANK, and congresswoman WATERS' efforts to infuse federal dollars back into the National Flood Insurance Program so that it continues to serve as a safety net for victims of future natural disasters. Congress has an obligation to ensure that this program is on sound financial footing and I urge my colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF MONTICELLO DAM

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to bring your attention to Monticello Dam which is located at the very western border of California's Third Congressional District. This month marks the 50th anniversary of Monticello Dam, a part of the Federal Solano Project. The Solano Project is owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation and is operated and maintained locally by the Solano County Water Agency. It serves a growing population of about 350,000 people and irrigated farm land of about 80,000 acres.

The beautiful Lake Berryessa was formed by Monticello Dam. Lake Berryessa is enjoyed year round for its recreational opportunities. Lower Putah Creek downstream of the dam provides a valuable fish and wildlife area and the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, made up of Yolo and Solano representatives, is involved in creek restoration projects to enhance the natural setting.

Monticello Dam is an integral part of the Federal Solano Project and is an example of how the Bureau of Reclamation was able to achieve environmental protection, restore and

protect wildlife habitat, and at the same time provide much needed water for the people of this part of the state of California. It exemplifies how we can work responsibly to utilize the benefits of nature on behalf of all the people.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 696 IN OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work the Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696 in Owensboro, Kentucky, continue to do to improve their community. Post 696 has exemplified the mission of the VFW: "Honor the dead by helping the living."

The Post has donated over \$22,000 to local and State organizations in the past year. Beneficiaries of their generosity have included local schools, the Boy Scouts, shelters, and churches. Their generosity has also been extended to organizations such as the Wendell Foster Center, Shriners Hospitals, the Children's Wish Foundation, the Disabled American Veterans, and JEVCO.

Post 696 recently sponsored a going away picnic for the members of Ft. Campbell's Alpha Troop and their families being deployed to Iraq. The city of Owensboro adopted Alpha Troop through the Americans Supporting Americans' Adopt-a-Unit-Program. I thank the members of the troop for their service and the city of Owensboro for this commitment to these brave soldiers.

The VFW Post 696 Honor/Color Guard has been busy serving the community as well. Since 2001, they have participated in over 400 Veteran funerals and 50 community events in Daviess County.

I want to recognize the leaders of Post 696, Commander Richard "Ike" Eisenmenger Jr., Ladies Auxiliary President Marilu Goodsell, and Color/Honor Guard Commander Joseph Hayden. They have worked tirelessly to serve veterans and improve their community.

It is my privilege to honor the members of VFW Post 696 today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for their past service to our country and continued dedication to serving their community.

RECOGNIZING THE COMPLETION OF THE CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charlotte High School on the completion of their new football stadium and to honor the Charlotte County community for their dedication to the rebuilding of Charlotte High School.

Charlotte County High School has been educating the students of Charlotte County since 1926. In the summer of 2004, Charlotte High School and its stadium were devastated

by Hurricane Charley. Since 2004 the Charlotte County community, including the Charlotte County School Board, Superintendent Dave Gayler, Principal Barney Duffy and many students and families have worked diligently to rebuild both their city and their high school.

On October 5, 2007 work on the new Charlotte High School football stadium will be officially complete, marking an important milestone in the rebuilding of both the school and the spirit of the community. On this day, the Charlotte High School football team will play their first game in the new stadium against Manatee High School.

The students, parents and teachers of Charlotte High School have already achieved a huge victory by rebuilding their stadium. As the Charlotte High School Tarpons take the field tomorrow, they will have with them the great fighting spirit of the entire Charlotte High School community.

On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I wish luck to Coach Binky Waldrop, the Charlotte High School football players and the entire Charlotte High School community as they fight for yet another victory in Charlotte High School Stadium.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF BELLFLOWER

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Bellflower and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on the city's 50th anniversary. I am proud to represent this unique city as part of my 34th Congressional District of California.

And while we honor 50 years of official incorporation, Bellflower's roots date back to 1784, when a Spanish leatherjacket soldier named Manuel Nieto received a 300,000-acre land grant on which to graze livestock. After Nieto passed away in 1804, his land was divided into five smaller ranchos that were distributed to his heirs in 1832. His daughter, Manuela Cota, received a 27,000-acre plot known as Rancho Los Cerritos. After several changes in ownership, the rancho was eventually purchased by Lewellyn Bixby during the 1860s. Bixby's brother, Jotham, who was selected to manage the ranch, divided the land into several sections, including a 4,000-acre area called Somerset Ranch. This is the land on which much of Bellflower as we now know it would eventually sit.

During the late 1800s, a settlement began to sprout up along the banks of the San Gabriel River, but the community remained small and the population numbered less than 100 through the early part of the 20th century. The completion of a Pacific Electric Railway line through Somerset Ranch in 1905, and the vision of founders Emil Firth and Frank E. Woodruff to subdivide large ranches into town-sized lots provided a catalyst for growth. By 1912, Bellflower's population numbered more than 1,200.

Bellflower remained a rural community for many years and became known for its dairy and poultry farming. Many Dutch, Portuguese, Hispanic and Japanese immigrants settled in

the area to take advantage of the community's thriving agriculture industry, and by the late 1940s, Bellflower's population boomed to more than 44,000. As the town's population continued to grow, the community began to consider incorporation. And on September 3, 1957, the proud community was granted a certificate of city incorporation and became California's 348th city.

Fifty years later, Bellflower has blossomed into a dynamic and diverse community of more than 77,000 people. The city has left its rural roots behind, and is now focused on attracting new, quality businesses to a community that houses more than 3,000 merchants. Bellflower also remains committed to community development and has several projects in the works that will help beautify an already attractive city, including the opening of Pirate Park—a pirate-themed play area—the restoration of the historic Pacific Electric Railway Depot and the development of the three-acre Palm Street Linear Park, which will feature bike and walking trails.

Bellflower will mark its 50th anniversary in mid-October with a week of exciting events, including its annual Liberty Day Parade, a fireworks show, a cow-milking contest and several concerts. I'm honored to recognize this historic milestone in this city's rich history.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Bellflower's first 50 years as this thriving community continues to live by its motto of "Growing Together" and works toward a prosperous future.

HONORING RICHARD J. MCCANN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard "Dick" McCann for receiving the Distinguished Citizens Award from the Three Fires Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Dick first began his journey as a Cub Scout, where he quickly learned to love the adventure of the outdoors. A few years later, as a Boy Scout, Dick had the opportunity to attend the three-week-long National Jamboree in Anaheim, California. Through his experiences as a Boy Scout, Dick developed the perseverance that has helped him achieve so much as a business and community leader in later life.

Dick's strong moral grounding and commitment to hard work were instrumental as he set out to begin his career. With \$1,500 borrowed from family, friends and neighbors, Dick started a construction company in a one-car garage in Villa Park.

Under his visionary leadership, McCann Construction Specialties Company soon grew into McCann Industries, directly employing more than 150 individuals in my congressional district. Their economic activity indirectly supports the jobs of countless others. Dick McCann and McCann Industries are a prime example of the hard work and productivity that sets American businesses apart in the global marketplace.

As Dick's experience and industry expertise became apparent, he was tapped by his peers

to serve as a board member of the Underground Contractors Association and the Concrete Contractors Association of Greater Chicago, as well as President of the Associated Construction Distributors International and President of the Illinois Equipment Distributors.

Although Dick retired from McCann Industries several years ago, he has left an indelible mark on both the company and the construction industry at large, working to build a corporate culture of integrity that reflects his many years of involvement with the Boy Scouts. McCann Industries continues to set the standard for construction businesses.

In addition to his professional accolades, Dick serves an executive board member and sits on the facilities committee of the Three Fires Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He has devoted countless hours to planning the Council's new Cub Scout Adventure Camp and I am confident that this endeavor, like everything Dick has set his mind to, will be a tremendous success.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Dick McCann, a remarkable individual, is being deservedly honored with the Distinguished Citizens Award. Please join me in honoring this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER CHASE PARRISH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Chase Parrish, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Chase Parrish for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE ON THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2007, PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I rise to introduce a resolution congratulating the Ukrainian people for the holding of free, fair

and transparent parliamentary elections on September 30, 2007. These elections were held in a peaceful manner consistent with Ukraine's democratic values, and in keeping with that nation's commitments as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

While there were some shortcomings, these elections stand in contrast to the vast majority of elections that have taken place in the countries of the former Soviet Union over the course of the last 15 years. Tone Tingsgaard, the Special Coordinator of the short-term election observers for the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) and Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, stated that these elections were conducted "in a positive and professional manner." The OSCE-led IEOM's preliminary statement concluded that the elections confirmed an open and competitive environment for the conduct of the election process and that freedom of assembly and expression were respected. IEOM observers assessed the voting process as good or very good in 98 percent of the nearly 3,000 polling stations visited, notwithstanding some shortcomings, notably with respect to the quality of voter lists, and the vote count was assessed as good or very good in 94 percent of the IEOM reports.

These pre-term elections did not come about easily, coming on the heels of a political crisis that engulfed Ukraine's president, prime minister, and parliament for several months earlier this year. These political disputes were rooted in weak constitutional delineations of the powers of the president and prime minister. After weeks of tense standoff, however, agreement was reached on May 27 stipulating new parliamentary elections for September 30. Now that the elections have concluded, it is my hope that Ukraine's political leaders will form a government reflecting the will of the Ukrainian people as expressed by the results of the elections; a government that advances political stability and democratic development. It is my hope, too, that the new parliament and government will focus on the constitutional framework, especially the question of separation of powers, in order to avoid the political uncertainty that we witnessed earlier this year. Ukraine also needs to further undertake the hard work of strengthening the rule of law, including an independent judiciary, and fighting corruption.

Madam Speaker, the conduct of these elections is a testament to the Ukrainian people's determined path towards the consolidation of democracy as Ukraine advances its integration with the Euro-Atlantic community. As such, Ukraine serves as a model for the post-Soviet countries, all too many of which have unfortunately retreated to heavy-handed authoritarianism.

This House can pride itself on having been a staunch supporter of freedom, human rights and democracy in Ukraine for many years—even before the restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991. As this resolution underscores, it is important to continue our efforts to the further development of a democratic system in Ukraine based on the rule of law, a free market economy, and consolidation of Ukraine's security and sovereignty. I urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution.