

there, he was responsible for conducting training courses and disaster exercises in FEMA Region 5.

In 1988, Tom returned to local government service and became the Deputy Coordinator of the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management, where he oversaw disaster planning and training activities.

In recognition of his exemplary role as Deputy Coordinator, Tom was appointed Coordinator of the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management in 1995. While holding this position, he supervised the renovation of the county's Emergency Operations Center, designed the county's Mobile Operating Center and the installation of Illinois' first Emergency Alert System.

He also serves as a member on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

In 2003, Tom became the Director of the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as DuPage became the first county in Illinois to merge the roles of emergency management and homeland security.

Tom's steadfast dedication to protecting our communities has spanned more than two decades. On February 29, 2008 he will begin a well deserved respite. Thanks to Thomas Mefferd, DuPage County's emergency management system is clearly a cut above the rest.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the distinguished career and service of Thomas Mefferd.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT HAL JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Hal Jackson, a life-long North Texan who passed away at 87 years of age on Saturday, January 19, 2008.

Robert Hal Jackson devoted his life to helping and protecting others. Born on November 29, 1920, in Denton, Texas, he graduated from North Texas State Teacher's College, now known as the University of North Texas, in 1941. Mr. Jackson enrolled in law school at the University of Texas but left to join the Navy Air Corps on January 1, 1942. On November 14th of that year, he married his wife Barbara Hancock before serving three tours of duty in the South Pacific during World War II. He was a member of the VF-17 Skull & Crossbones Squadron and received a Silver Star for his part in the aerial attack that sunk the Yamato, Japan's largest battleship.

Upon returning from the war, Jackson finished his degree at Baylor University and Southern Methodist University. He served two terms in the Texas State Legislature representing Denton, and earned his law license in 1952. Continuing his commitment as a public servant, Mr. Jackson chose to be a defense attorney in the criminal courts, believing that the American justice system relied on strong, dedicated lawyers to compel the government to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. Mr. Jackson was most assuredly one of those lawyers, receiving respect from both sides of

the court room for his unwavering commitment to his work.

Mr. Jackson was a member of the Denton County Bar Association, the Denton County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and a founding member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He served on the Denton Airport Board for two years, and was an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Jackson was inducted into the Denton County Criminal Defense Attorneys Association's Hall of Fame in March 2006. He is survived by his wife Barbara, whom he was married to for 65 years, and several cousins.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and celebrate the life of Mr. Hal Jackson, one he spent serving our country, both in the war and in the courtroom. His loyalty and allegiance to this nation will be sorely missed, but his memory will remain as an inspiration to those who were fortunate enough to have known him. I extend my sincerest sympathies to his family and friends; he will truly be missed by all.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Christian Community Action on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary for providing financial and spiritual needs for the underprivileged in southern Denton County.

Christian Community Action (CCA) was founded on February 22, 1973 by a small group of Christians whose resolve was to care for "the least of the brethren." Local mainstream Christian pastors and their congregations were asked to donate food, clothing, furniture, house wares and money. Tom Duffy, founder and the original President of CCA, started organizing their efforts from a residential garage but CCA soon outgrew that space and moved to their current headquarters in downtown Lewisville, Texas. Under Mr. Duffy's tenure, CCA went from a volunteer-run storefront to three full-scale Resale stores that earn approximately \$5 million each year to assist needy families. The number of those receiving help also saw an increase from a handful of families in 1973 to more than 15,000 individuals this past year.

Christian Community Action continues to expand its services to those who need it most in more than 46 communities. They compassionately assist families financially with their needs of today while helping them learn to one day live independently for a brighter tomorrow. In addition, CCA encourages spiritual growth providing religious opportunities to further their chances of success. CCA is committed to being responsible and faithful stewards of the donations they receive ensuring that their work directly benefits families in crisis situations.

I am honored to pay tribute to Christian Community Action and the valuable contributions they provide to those in need. I commend CCA for their dedication, commitment and service to disadvantaged families in Lewisville, Texas, and the surrounding communities, during the last 35 years.

CONGRATULATING NEW YORK: LAND OF GIANTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and allow two editorials, the Feb. 5 New York Post piece "They Shocked the World" and the Daily News' "Land of the Giants," to speak to the inarguable superiority of New York's football team, the Giants. In what has become one of the greatest upsets ever, the underdog Giants ended the New England Patriots' hopes for a perfect season and brought the title home to the Big Apple and New Jersey.

The tenacity of this championship team carried it over the finish line—from the steady leadership of its most valuable player, Eli Manning, and head coach, Tom Coughlin, to the late-breaking plays from wide receivers David Tyree and Plaxico Burress. The 17-14 nail biter was a match of wills and mettle, and the people of New York are proud that their team came out on top.

Congratulations are in order for the New York Giants, and its supporters, in its win of Super Bowl XLII.

THEY SHOCKED THE WORLD

Everyone knew that Super Bowl XLII was going to make history.

Either the world would witness the coronation of Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots as masters of a once-in-a-generation perfect season . . . or it would see one of the greatest football upsets ever.

But no one could possibly have foreseen that the Eli Manning-led New York Giants would pull off that upset with one of the most iconic performances in Super Bowl history: two fourth-quarter touchdown drives, including one to take a final lead with mere seconds remaining.

The team is being honored this morning with a much-deserved parade through New York's Canyon of Heroes, from Battery Park to City Hall.

Theirs was a performance, indeed, that could shape the game for years to come—if New York's already proud football history is any indication.

Take the 1958 NFL championship at Yankee Stadium—"the greatest game ever played"—where legendary quarterback Johnny Unitas' own late-game heroics led the Baltimore Colts to a thrilling overtime victory over the Giants.

It was a devastating loss for New Yorkers, but a huge blessing to the sport. Football caught the nation's imagination as never before, and the country soon discovered that its even pace, regular breaks and hard-hitting action made the game perfectly suited for the television era.

Within two years, the NFL boasted two new teams, and the newly formed American Football League (the leagues decided to merge in 1966) added eight more.

New York got its revenge in 1969, anyway, when "Broadway Joe" Namath famously guaranteed—and delivered—victory for his (AFL) Jets over the heavily favored Colts in Super Bowl III.

That victory was just as significant, shattering the image of AFL (now AFC) teams as talent-challenged upstarts and bringing an exciting and competitive parity to the sport that's propelled it toward unambiguous national-pastime status.

And who can blame Americans for falling in love when the sport's biggest game regularly features epic thrillers like Super Bowl XXV, the Giants' 1991 nail-biter win? (That game, incidentally, saw both Belichick and current Giants' coach Tom Coughlin under the tutelage of coaching great Bill Parcells.)

Or Super Bowl XXXVI in 2002, for that matter, when a young Tom Brady led his Patriots to a stunning upset over the powerhouse of the day, Kurt Warner and the St. Louis Rams?

Sound familiar?

For Eli and the Giants, this could be just the beginning.

As for New York—well, suffice it to say that Sunday wasn't the first time the locals have made football history.

Likely won't be the last, either.

LAND OF THE GIANTS

See that look of joy on Eli Manning's face? Just about any New Yorker can look in a mirror and see the same. Even two days after the most breathtaking Super Bowl finish in history.

You can also see the look on Manning's face in person Tuesday. Along with the smiles of Tom Coughlin and Plaxico Burress and David Tyree and all the other Giants as they travel up the Canyon of Heroes in a ticker-tape (these days, confetti) parade.

And richly deserved the celebration is. The Giants' end-of-the-season run was something to behold. They were tougher, smarter, faster—just plain better—than the supposedly invincible competition.

Including the now-imperfect New England Patriots:

The team that had everything going for it, the running, passing, blocking and Captain America at quarterback.

The team that was coached by no mere mortal, but by a genius.

The team that was named by so many as the finest pro football squad of all time.

There was none better than the Patriots, they all said, and they were wrong. Because when it counted, the Giants proved their mettle.

The parade is set to start at 11 a.m. at Battery Place and end at City Hall, following the route on which New York City has traditionally cheered accomplishments that lift the civic soul, some in sports, others of a far more profound nature. It's where the Giants belong this day.

Regardless of their unfortunate address—an exile forced by municipal stupidity—the Jints are a New York institution, big enough for Broadway, far too large for Moonachie.

Go and enjoy. Go and soak up all the glory and hear the wall of sound echoing up the canyon. Once experienced, it is never to be forgotten.

Just like Super Bowl XLII.

You've been replaying it in your head, haven't you? At least the final 1:15 minutes. Which were the most amazing in Super Bowl history.

There's Manning, whose abilities were so often questioned, who responded to all the doubts with class. He has the ball. The Patriots have his jersey. He breaks free, sets up and fires a high one to Tyree amid defenders. Tyree makes that one-handed catch, the catch that had to be seen to be believed. And even then was unbelievable.

The Pats still lead 14-10. Manning lofts the ball to Burress. Touchdown. Extra point. Giants, 17; New England, 14. Proving that it ain't over till it's over, a truism observed by all—except by ungracious, unsportsmanlike Bill Belichick.

What happened Sunday goes into the annals of Great New York City Sports Moments, along with the championships of the

'69 Jets, '69 Mets, '94 Rangers, and '87 and '91 Giants. As co-owner John Mara noted, "It's the greatest victory in the history of this franchise."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 31 H. Res. 943—Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986, I was attending a funeral for a soldier killed in Iraq. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE-AMERICANS

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I would like to wish the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Organization of Chinese-Americans a happy and healthy New Year for the year 4706, the year of the rat.

I hope this New Year brings the Chinese-American community of Pittsburgh much joy and thanksgiving. I am thankful for the positive impact this organization has had on the lives of Chinese-Americans and Pittsburgh as a whole. Chinese-Americans have greatly contributed to the progress of Pittsburgh as well as the entire nation. I am very honored for this opportunity to wish them a very happy 4706.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in wishing the members of the Organization of Chinese-Americans a very happy and prosperous New Year.

FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION ACT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Forest Landscape Restoration Act. This Act establishes the "Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program" to develop, select, and fund landscape-scale forest restoration projects on Federal lands. This would include 10 collaborative forest restoration projects annually on a landscape-scale of at least 50,000 acres of Federal lands.

While there is more discussion to be had on the particulars, I think that the framework of this measure addresses some fundamental and critical concepts.

First and foremost, this bill at its core focuses on restoring the ecological integrity of our Federal lands. Restoration proposals must address a number of key ecological restoration components, including improving fish and

wildlife habitat, improving water quality, maintaining and decommissioning roads, and addressing invasive species problems.

Second, this bill is built around a collaborative process. Collaboration is not only required for the development of restoration proposals, but continues through implementation, playing a key role in project execution, monitoring and reporting. By requiring that forest restoration follows a collaborative process, we are ensuring that people work together on the future of our Nation's public lands.

Third, this bill will also reduce the threat of wildland fire and control escalating fire management costs. Restoration proposals must address forest thinning to reduce hazardous fuels, and also analyze the anticipated reductions in wildfire management costs.

Lastly, this bill encourages the use of forest restoration byproducts to foster local economic development. Byproducts from forest restoration can be used in a variety of ways, such as for woody biomass energy, pellets for home heating, value-added products, and more. This bill encourages biomass utilization and development of small businesses in rural public land communities. Furthermore, in order for a forest restoration project to be eligible, the landscape must be accessible by existing or proposed wood-processing infrastructure.

I am introducing this bill as a companion measure to a Senate bill introduced by Senator BINGAMAN. I introduce this measure today as a means to work with my colleagues in the other body and move this process along. I certainly realize that forest legislation in particular takes considerable work to craft. I therefore introduce this measure today not as a final product, but as the first step forward in a process. I look forward to gathering information and hearing more about this important topic as we work together on this measure.

Madam Speaker, the American people treasure their public lands and care deeply about their future. Our Federal lands are in need of ecological restoration, which would help us accomplish the goals of restoring the ecological integrity of our Federal lands, reducing the threat of wildland fire, fostering community collaboration and involvement, and creating jobs in rural communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, on February 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained. I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 29, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup. I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall No. 30, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I would have voted "aye;" and on rollcall No. 31, Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986, I would have voted "aye."