

football team be congratulated and honored for its come-from-behind Super Bowl win last week, one that left the sports world simultaneously stunned and elated.

The competition was formidable and the challenge facing the Giants daunting. Experts did not give the Giants much chance of prevailing and the odds-makers in Las Vegas made them 12-point underdogs. The New England Patriots represented a veteran squad of impressive offensive muscle, strolling onto the field with a historic perfect season and an expected fourth championship within its grasp. But the New York Giants proved resilient. Eli Manning led the way, charging down the field with a 12-play, 83-yard drive that capitalized on the great skill of David Tyree, Brandon Jacobs, Steve Smith, and Plaxico Burress.

This upset was no ordinary win. Facing a team dead set on making history, the G-men blazed a trail of their own, becoming the first NFC wild card team to win a Super Bowl. Theirs is a story of unparalleled heart and inspiration, of surpassing expectations and securing triumph in the face of all odds. Theirs is an American story, and they have accordingly ascended from being New York's team to being America's team.

Join me in spirited congratulations and well wishes for America's team, the New York Giants, in their 17–14 championship win.

SANTA MARGARITA RIVER, CALIFORNIA, CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of my bill H.R. 29. The Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project. I would like to thank Chairmen NICK RAHALL and IKE SKELTON for quickly moving this bill through their respective committees. This is now the third Congress in which this bill has passed the house, and I hope the Senate will act just as quickly.

The Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project is very important to U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the city of Fallbrook. In 1966 the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California entered a stipulated judgment in *U.S. v. Fallbrook P.U.D.* directing the Department of the Interior to provide a "physical solution" to the 60/40 allocation of the Santa Margarita River. Since then, previous legislative efforts to authorize a project carrying out the Federal judge's mandate have not been successful despite past support of Members of the California Congressional delegation. Finally, through a long process of negotiation between the Marine Corps and the city, this conjunctive use project was agreed upon. This design was deemed to fully implement the court's directive at far less than half the cost of previous proposals with no environmental degradation.

Furthermore, passage of this authorization for the conjunctive use project is essential to giving Camp Pendleton access to the San Diego Aqueduct. Since its completion, the aqueduct has provided ample access to Southern California's regional water supply system

for nearly all of San Diego County, except for Camp Pendleton. A key benefit of H.R. 29 will be the construction of a water system physically connecting Camp Pendleton to the San Diego Aqueduct, thereby making it possible to use imported water as needed, including emergency mobilization in time of conflict.

The conference report for the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act directed the Bureau of Reclamation, under the Santa Margarita River feasibility authorization, to "... perform the studies needed to address current and future municipal, domestic, military, environmental, and other water uses from the Santa Margarita River." Funding for Reclamation's feasibility study of the Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project has been provided in each subsequent fiscal year up to the present, and its work is more than 90 percent complete. When signed into law, this project will be funded by the Department of Navy and Department of the Interior. This project is essential to ensure that Camp Pendleton has a larger water supply to meet the current and future needs of the base.

This project has been vetted by multiple committees over a number of years and found to be of the utmost importance to the Marines at Camp Pendleton, while also benefiting the city of Fallbrook. It will provide for enhanced recharge and recovery from the underground basin on Camp Pendleton to provide a constant water supply for the base, along with a safe, reliable, drought-and earthquake-proof water supply for more than 35,000 families.

Again, I thank my colleagues for working with me and my constituents to move H.R. 29 through the legislative process.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS IN ALASKA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Marine Mammal Cooperative Agreements in Alaska Amendments of 2008.

The 1994 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act created section 119 of the Act, titled "Marine Mammal Cooperative Agreements in Alaska," which allows the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with Alaska Native organizations. These cooperative agreements have been very successful in creating statewide and regional Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions protecting species such as the polar bear, walrus, sea otters, beluga whale, harbor and ice seals, and Steller sea lions. The cooperative agreements have provided grants to Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions to conduct important marine mammal data collection efforts, marine mammal research, and monitor subsistence activities.

Alaska Natives have been excellent stewards of Alaska's natural resources for centuries. The Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions have continued this tradition by working cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries

Service to successfully manage the species under their respective jurisdictions. In order to further this success, the Commissions have advocated for management of subsistence activities. Section 119 of the MMPA does not currently allow for management of subsistence activities prior to a depletion finding under the Act.

In 2000, the Clinton Administration sent Congress a draft bill to reauthorize the MMPA and included in it authorities for the Alaska Marine Mammal Commissions to manage and enforce subsistence activities. The Bush Administration followed suit including similar language in its own draft bill to reauthorize the MMPA.

I have not taken the exact approach of the Clinton and Bush proposals, however, I do believe this legislation will achieve the same result. I have worked with the administration, the Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions, and State of Alaska representatives to develop a bill that allows for management prior to a depletion finding under the MMPA.

The Whaling Convention Act of 1949, which governs the Bowhead whale subsistence activities, and the more recently passed legislation implementing the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Treaty, governing the subsistence take of polar bears, are two excellent examples of legislation Congress passed to authorize marine mammal management activities.

This legislation will further refine the cooperative management process under the MMPA to ensure that Alaska Natives and the Federal agencies with marine mammal management authority have the tools they need to continue their successful management efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support this important conservation legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MONSIGNOR JOSEPH CHAMPLIN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of Syracuse's most beloved priests. Monsignor Joseph Champlin, who passed away on January 17 at the age of 77.

Throughout his life Father Joe was dedicated not only to the priesthood and his faith, but also to the people and communities he served.

Ordained in 1956, Father Joe served for 50 years in the Syracuse Diocese. He served as pastor in three parishes, including as rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from 1995 until his retirement in 2005. Even in retirement, Msgr. Champlin was active in the church and the community. In 2006 he became priest in residence at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Warners, New York.

Father Joe was known worldwide for being a prolific writer. He wrote more than 62 books and pamphlets on liturgy, pastoral theology, love, and marriage. In fact, Father Champlin's "Together for Life" continues to lead Catholic couples across the country and around the world through preparation for marriage.

In addition to his success as a writer, Msgr. Champlin remained committed to the people of the greater Syracuse area throughout his

life. In 1997 he founded the Guardian Angel Society, which provides tuition assistance, technological updates, and other improvements to the former Cathedral School in Syracuse. He raised more than \$2 million for the program, and for that effort he was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award by President George W. Bush in 2005. He also received the Post-Standard Achievement Award in 2005 and the Temple Adath Yeshurun Citizen of the year award this past October.

Msgr. Champlin's commitment to the Catholic Church and the people that he served is unquestionable. He was a beloved priest and friend, and will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA W. BARK

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Martha Bark. On February 21, 2008, Mrs. Bark will be celebrated for her contributions to southern New Jersey at the Burlington County Republican Committee and Burlington County Republican Women's Annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

Martha Bark has dedicated a lifetime of service to our communities. A resident of Medford for over 40 years, Martha served on the township school board for 10 years and the township committee for 7 years. She was also appointed mayor and served two full terms.

Furthering her interest in serving the broad community, Martha was elected to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1984. Given her background in education and community preservation, she became the chairperson of the Water Quality Management Board and worked on several additional committees aimed at increasing open space. Martha served four consecutive terms and was appointed freeholder director for 2 years.

After her tenure as a freeholder, Martha went on to become a member of the New Jersey State Assembly for 2 years and finally, a member of the New Jersey State Senate in 1997. As a senator, she served on the Transportation and Economic Growth, Tourism, and Agricultural Committee, where she was elected chairperson. As a former business owner, it was natural for Martha to become a member of the Senate Community & Urban Affairs Committee and also a member of the Senate Budget Committee.

Outside public office, Martha has volunteered her time to various organizations. She was a member of the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Advisory Board and the Burlington County Open Space Advisory Board. Martha also sat on the Burlington County Family Services Board and was a member of the HB Industrial Village Conservancy Board of Trustees.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for her leadership, commitment, and service to the public.

HONORING OF ONE ACCORD MINISTRY AND ALL FIRST DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of the volunteers of Tennessee and the First District. Of One Accord Ministry is a charity that is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Tennessee has been called the "Volunteer" state by the great efforts of our citizens during The War of 1812. Since The War of 1812 the people of Tennessee continue to show pride, dedication and service through volunteer efforts. People from around the nation are moving into my district to enjoy the wonderful quality of life found in its beauty and the spirit of its people. Our first volunteers were heroes serving in The War of 1812 and our citizens today are heroes sacrificing their time and effort to volunteer in an assortment of ways.

Of One Accord Ministry serves two rural and lowly populated counties in my district and continually utilizes the efforts of nearly 500 people during 2007. These 500 volunteers have sacrificed over 51,533 hours of service and have served over 71,695 people in various ways. The ministry serves from four physical sites offering emergency food distribution, meal delivery for seniors five days a week, participating in our states summer feeding program, offering a free medical clinic, doing home repairs, organizing the county's Christmas programs and others.

Of One Accord does not work alone. They work hand-in-hand with schools, clubs, scouts, and Postal workers to help complete their mission. Similarly, partnerships with businesses, hospitals and laboratories provide other services for the clinic. The help does not stop there; many others supply resources and help in any way possible.

We tend to overlook the millions of volunteers across the nation giving their time and efforts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the volunteers from Of One Accord Ministry who have served for twenty years and all of the volunteers in Tennessee's First District alike.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOLORES "DEE" BENSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and honor of Dolores "Dee" Benson, a beloved figure in Cleveland area politics and a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Dee was born in 1925 in Altoona, Pennsylvania, where she spent most of her early life. She was an exceptional student at Altoona High School, and had a special gift for foreign languages and science. She was offered a full tuition scholarship to Penn State University, but chose to go to work instead. She married Bud in 1947 and they moved to Cleveland to raise their seven children, Robert, Patrick,

Jacqueline, Mary, Elizabeth, Denise, and Christine. She will also be dearly missed by her eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Dee was incredibly active in her Cleveland neighborhood, serving as President of the Southwest Military Moms; President, Treasurer, and Secretary of Parma Women's Democratic Club; Precinct Committeewoman and Democratic Ward Leader for the community of Seven Hills; and a founding member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish; just to name a few of her many accomplishments and activities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Dee Benson, a much-loved activist whose contributions to her community will continue to uphold her legacy.

COMMEMORATING THE COURAGE OF THE HAITIAN SOLDIERS THAT FOUGHT FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE IN THE "SIEGE OF SAVANNAH"

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of the significant Haitian contribution to the American fight for independence. A pioneering band of 500 Haitians volunteered at the inception of this Nation's great story, laying life and limb on the line for the cause of liberty. That effort left an indelible mark on history, drawing the largest unit of soldiers of African descent to fight in the 'Siege of Savannah.'

It is the highest expression of selflessness and generosity to brush aside geopolitical divisions and serve nobly in support of another nation. We salute these valiant men—over 300 of which were killed on our soil—for helping secure and establish our great democracy, for answering the call in defense of neighbors, in defense of friends.

That island nation has, over the years, proven its commitment to courage—leading a successful battle for independence of its own and repudiating early the pernicious institution of slavery. Hundreds of years later, we have not forgotten.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of TOM LANTOS. The passing of Chairman LANTOS is a great loss to the Congress, our Nation, and to oppressed people worldwide.

Born in Budapest, Congressman LANTOS was 16 in 1944 when Nazis captured and occupied the city. He twice escaped Nazi labor