

talk to each of you about things we have seen and kinships we have shared in the tough and heartless crucible of war.

Some day we will all join those who are serving so gallantly now and have preceded us on battlefields from Gettysburg to Wanat. We will gather inside a firebase to open a case of C rations with every box peaches and pound cake. We will join with a band of brothers to recount the experience of serving something greater than ourselves. I believe in my very soul that the almightily reserves a corner of heaven, probably around a perpetual lager where some day we can meet and embrace . . . all of the band of brothers throughout the ages to tell our stories while envious standers-by watch and wonder how horrific and incendiary the crucible of violence must have been to bring such a disparate assemblage so close to the hand of God.

Until we meet there thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice, God bless you all and God bless this great nation. . . .

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES DEALING WITH TROPICAL STORM KATSANA AND TYPHOON PARMA

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution. Tropical Storm Katsana caused horrible suffering to the people of the Philippines and wreaked havoc on their communities. Just six days later, Typhoon Parma brought additional death and destruction to the region.

I extend my deepest sympathies to those who have lost friends and loved ones in these natural disasters. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

On October 2nd I sent a letter to President Obama regarding the devastation in the Philippines caused by Katsana. I urged swift action to provide aid to the already devastated region especially in light of the proximity of Typhoon Parma.

I would like to submit this letter for the record, as well as a letter from the UN General Assembly in response to my request.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 2, 2009.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write to request your immediate assistance and intervention in speeding humanitarian aid to the people of the Philippines who are suffering from the effects of Tropical Storm Katsana. As you know, Tropical Storm Katsana hit Manila and rest of the Philippines on September 26, 2009, causing a disaster.

I have just spoken by teleconference with an Akron, Ohio businessman, Mathew Freeman, who is currently in Manila. Mr. Freeman, through the cooperation of Channel 5 in Cleveland, has shared with me a gripping personal account of the situation on the ground in Manila: there is no evidence of any aid reaching the people. Survivors are without shelter, food and water as another series of storms are quickly approaching.

I understand that the Department of Defense is providing assistance with logistics in the region and that today a relief flight delivered aid for 20,000 affected individuals. I further understand that the U.S. has committed an additional \$1 million of aid money to the region, which I applaud. Nevertheless, first hand accounts indicate that additional efforts to expedite humanitarian aid must be made and made immediately. The situation is desperate and countless lives are at risk. As such, I urge you to accelerate delivery of additional humanitarian aid to the region.

I appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
October 12, 2009.

Hon. DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: I am writing to thank you for showing urgent concern for the victims of the tropical storm Katsana in the Philippines. I value your efforts to alleviate the suffering of the two and a half million people affected by the storm and to raise awareness of the situation in the Philippines.

As you know, the United Nations has launched a flash appeal to support the Government of the Philippines in responding to the effects of the storm. The flash appeal is seeking \$74,021,809 and involves the international humanitarian community, including NGOs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations agencies. So far the flash appeal has received \$11 million in funding and an additional \$433,119 in pledges.

I am pleased to note that the United States have contributed \$650,000 to the United Nations flash appeal, in addition to other funding for relief operations. I am convinced that your valuable efforts on behalf of the victims of Katsana, have contributed to the timely and generous support from the United States.

Sincerely,

ALI ABDUSSALAM TREKI.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNHEIM FOREST

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bernheim Forest and their recent recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Bernheim Forest Arboretum Visitors Center in Clermont, Kentucky won two of EPA's Lifecycle Building Challenge awards for a professional building and for a building with the best greenhouse gas reduction.

EPA's Lifecycle Building Challenge recognizes innovative green building ideas that reduce environmental and energy impacts. Reusing building materials assists the building industry in reducing more than 88 million tons of building-related construction and demolition debris that are typically sent to landfills in the United States each year.

The Bernheim Forest Arboretum Visitors Center incorporates the surrounding forest into the building's design. The staff and board at

the Bernheim Forest are committed to our natural environment and this visitor's center is a solid example of that commitment.

Construction of the center emphasized safe materials made of biological nutrients, which break down to safely return to forest soil, as well as technical nutrients, which can be remanufactured into new objects.

I congratulate the work of the individuals who made this building a reality and honor the staff and board at Bernheim Forest, whose passion for the environment make it possible for Kentuckians to connect with nature.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN BURKE

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Brian Burke, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Anaheim Ducks Professional Hockey Team from 2005 to 2008. Mr. Burke is one of Orange County's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, and raised in Edina, Minnesota, Brian resides with his wife Jennifer and has six children: Katie, Patrick, Brendan, Molly, Mairin and Gracie.

In 2007, Mr. Burke guided the Anaheim Ducks to the first Stanley Cup Championship in California history, and in 2008 he received two outstanding honors: On June 6th, he was chosen by USA Hockey as General Manager of the 2010 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team, and on August 7th he was named a recipient of the 2008 Lester Patrick Award for outstanding service to hockey in the United States. Burke is also the General Manager of the 2009 USA World Championships Team.

Madam Speaker, Brian Burke is an American citizen with a passion for supporting the United States military. Mr. Burke organized a first-of-its-kind two-day event to support the families of active duty military personnel at the Honda Center in 2008. The event, which included Ducks' players and their families, welcomed "Operation Homefront"—a non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, the families they leave behind, and injured soldiers upon their return home. Brian also supported the "Wounded Warriors Project," a non-profit organization that assists severely wounded soldiers to transition back into life when they suffer from serious and traumatic injuries. To recognize our Wounded Warriors and the United States Marines, Brian Burke and the Anaheim Ducks delivered the Stanley Cup for its first ever visit to Camp Pendleton in 2007.

Mr. Burke has also been very involved in Orange County charities. He has served as a Board Member on the Board of Directors for the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) as well as supported and donated to the Orangewood Children's Foundation, Share Ourselves and the Children's Bureau. Brian also promoted cancer awareness in the Orange County community by launching "Hockey Fights Cancer" nights at Ducks' games.

I know Mr. Burke's family is extremely proud of his accomplishments, as am I. He has worked tirelessly to improve his community and his efforts should be emulated by future community leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Brian Burke today as an outstanding American citizen and community leader.

HONORING MICHAEL LOUIS
VONBEHREN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Michael Louis VonBehren of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. At Michael's young age he already symbolized what we all hope to be. He actively exhibited enthusiasm for academics, for community service and for the Democratic Party. In acknowledgement of his commitment and dedication to the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, this year's annual Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award is dedicated in his memory.

Michael VonBehren was an engaging young man who loved the democratic process. Michael was a student at Shrewsbury High School where he was involved in clubs such as Young Democrats, Political Action Group, and Model U.N. Although he was involved in various clubs and organizations, he still found the time to serve his community. Michael was a caring and kind young man who loved to help those that were less fortunate. He read to homeless children at a local shelter and was a talented video producer at his high school.

Michael VonBehren was one of those rare teenagers that crossed normal boundaries and surrounded himself with those that shared his interests and beliefs whether they were his peers or a fellow volunteer on the campaign trail. There is no way of knowing what Michael would have done in the future. All that is sure is that he would have made a difference in our world. Michael was an exemplary student and citizen who showed others kindness and enthusiasm everyday of his life.

Michael's unfaltering commitment to fairness and justice and his dedication to public service greatly benefitted our community. In tribute to his outstanding service to the community of Shrewsbury, I am proud to honor the memory of Michael Louis VonBehren with the dedication of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award to him. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to him today.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHARLES
E. WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Charles E. Williams, Jr., who has virtuously served the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Colonel Williams was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1986 upon his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During his career he has served both at home and overseas and as Military Aide to both President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush.

On October 1, 2007, Colonel Williams assumed command of the U.S. Army Special Missions Brigade at Fort Knox, Kentucky. As the Commander, he oversees the In-Service Recruiting of Special Operations, Warrant Officers and Chaplains, as well as the Logistics and Administrative Support for 1600 recruiting stations across the country.

Colonel Williams' decorations are numerous. Throughout his career he has been an inspiration and example to both soldiers and civilians alike. He has represented his country proudly as a man of honor and a true patriot.

After years of dedicated service, Colonel Williams has decided to retire. I honor him today because of his dignified and steadfast commitment to the citizens of this country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
WILLIAM J. MCCARTHY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of William J. "Bill" McCarthy, a U.S. Navy Veteran who was devoted to his family and friends. His leadership and work on behalf of the American laborer continues to strengthen and protect workers' rights throughout the Cleveland community.

Mr. McCarthy was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, where he later raised his own family. In 1956, he met and married the late Margaret J. Pawlak. Together they had four children: Marge, Kelly, William and Kevin. Their children, ten grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the most important part of their lives.

Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Mr. McCarthy began working as a meter reader with East Ohio Gas Company. He quickly ascended the union ranks to become one of the most powerful and effective labor leaders in Cleveland. He represented thousands of workers at East Ohio Gas, and led numerous strikes that won significant concessions in wages, benefits and safety improvements for workers. He was known for never giving up or backing down from what he believed was just and right. Mr. McCarthy's work on labor issues extended throughout Northeast Ohio, where he forged strong bonds with labor leaders, elected officials and workers. He served as Chairman of the AFL-CIO, President of the Ohio Joint Council of the Service Employees International Union, vice-president of Union Eye Care and as a board member with the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of William J. "Bill" McCarthy, who had an unwavering devotion to his family and country, and whose work on behalf of workers' rights will continue to reinforce the labor foundation of the Cleveland community. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mr. McCarthy's daughters: Marge and Kelly; his sons, William J. Jr. and Kevin; his ten grandchildren; his great-granddaughter; and his sister, Noreen.

A TRIBUTE TO JACQUES
GUILLAUME

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jacques Guillaume, MD, for his record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Dr. Jacques Guillaume was born in Haiti, studied both law and medicine at the State University of Haiti, then continued his studies here in the United States. Here he has combined his twin passions—law and medicine—to address the inequalities of justice and the inadequacies of health care in low-income communities. Dr. Guillaume has also held several managerial positions in the medical field, including Director of the Residency Training Program at the Catholic Medical Center, Director of OB/GYN at Mary Immaculate Hospital and St. Joseph. He currently serves as the Chair of the Gynecology Department at the Interfaith Medical Center.

Dr. Guillaume is a recognized leader in the OB/GYN community, publishing many articles in peer-reviewed journals. He frequently appears on television and radio programs to discuss health conditions. He clearly has a strong love of science and a real sense of justice.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Jacques Guillaume.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF
UNITED STATES-POLISH DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 266, which celebrates 90 years of the United States-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world. I support this resolution because Poland is an important ally, partner, and friend to the United States.

My home town of Houston, Texas has a strong connection with Poland. Texas has long been an important destination for Polish people immigrating to the United States. In 1818 a handful of Polish immigrants arrived in Texas seeking refuge from turmoil in Europe. Immigration from Poland increased in the 1850s as severe weather, economic hardship, a food shortage, and disease spurred people to seek better fortunes elsewhere. Texas received another wave of Polish immigrants in