

As in previous typhoons, Guam Power Authority crews were positioned and ready to battle the elements in order to keep the island's power system up and running. But Typhoon Paka was not a typical storm. As winds grew in intensity, and conditions grew increasingly more dangerous, the GPA crews were forced to ride out the storm at their respective worksites until the all-clear signal. The task that faced them the next morning was gargantuan. Power lines were dangling in the streets, in parking lots and in people's yards all over the island. They were tangled in wreckage and lying in broken pieces across roadways and along roadsides. Hundreds of transformers and thousands of street lights were ripped from their perches and scattered everywhere. Many were smashed beyond repair. Throughout the island wooden and concrete power poles broken, bent, tipped and even uprooted.

After assessing the damage, GPA announced that it would take at least three months or longer to restore service islandwide. The lengthy repair time was disheartening but not unreasonable given the immensity of the task. With Christmas around the corner, the sadness and disappointment in the faces of the people of Guam must have inspired the men and women of the Guam Power Authority to rise to the challenge. Instead of three months, GPA set an ambitious new goal of eight weeks.

With help from as far away as Hawaii and California, and from as close as the Northern Marianas, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Guam Power Authority worked long and hard to make Guam's holiday season as bright with light as possible. The Air Force also came to Guam's rescue with military line crews, heavy equipment and supplies, as well as providing nine C-5 flights to transport these and other personnel and materials to Guam. Our neighbors in the region also sent barges loaded with wooden and concrete poles, as well as transformers, electrical wire and other electrical supplies. All in all, 95 line personnel, 34 bucket trucks and 63 auxiliary line vehicles were brought in to augment GPA's equipment and 200 line personnel and 100 contractor crews. Priority was given to Guam's pumps and water wells, and running water was restored within days of the storm's passing. In the days that followed, GPA replaced nearly 700 transformers, nearly 100 concrete poles and some 800 wooden poles. Crews also re-strung hundreds of miles of primary and secondary electrical lines. At this time, GPA is concentrating on replacing nearly 3,000 street lights island wide and reconnecting residential power as homes are repaired.

In the ten weeks since the storm, the line crews have been most visible to the public. They and their heavy equipment have been seen all over the island, working around the clock to restore the system. GPA General Manager Ricardo Unpingco also did a commendable job of keeping the public informed, delivering daily progress reports and fielding questions from the public via the news media. But Mr. Unpingco and the line crews were not alone in this massive and ambitious endeavor. Behind the scenes, many other employees of GPA worked just as long, just as hard, often attending to tasks that were not in their job descriptions, to support the restoration work. Lastly, the biggest, most understanding and most loyal supporters of GPA's restoration

work have been the families—the wives, husbands, sons, daughters and loved ones of GPA employees, many of whom were also typhoon damage victims.

I rise today on behalf of the people of Guam to commend and to thank all the men and women of the Guam Power Authority, the personnel from the Saipan Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Belau Public Utilities, Yap State Public Services Corporation, Pohnpei Utilities Commission, Hawaiian Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and the United States Air Force, and especially the families of all these fine people, for all the efforts and sacrifices they made to restore electrical power to Guam. Si Yu'os ma'ase hamyu todos; si Yu'os en fanbendis.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the City of Los Angeles has designated the week of March 1, 1998 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week." In honor of this proclamation, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling attention to the tragedy of childhood cancer and in working to defeat this debilitating enemy of our children.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States today. Each year, approximately 10,000 American children are diagnosed with cancer. Moreover, it is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. While great strides are made each year in research, treatment, and prevention of childhood cancer, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to search for cures and more effective treatments.

I ask my colleagues to reaffirm their dedication to eliminating childhood cancer and to take a moment to express their appreciation to the devoted individuals working in the fight against this dreaded disease.

HONORING SALINE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WINNERS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about a group of constituents in Saline, Michigan whose contributions to their community merit respect and recognition.

Tom Kirvan is managing editor of the Reporter newspapers. His friends and colleagues have named him their Citizen of the Year for his tireless work on behalf of others. Through his involvement with Big Brothers/Big Sisters or the Council on Alcoholism, Tom has been in every way a true public servant.

Rick Kuss is Saline's mayor and is well-known for his work on historic preservation and his efforts to improve Saline. Rick is a person with a great sense of community. The Chamber has rightly recognized his contributions by awarding him the Georgia A. Anderson Vision Award.

Dale Rothfuss is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Saline Chamber.

A retiree, Dale has spent his free time helping others at the area Senior Center, the American Legion, and Saline Community Hospital.

Joann Steiner has also been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. A dedicated public servant, Joann has served the Department of Public Works for 35 years. I am proud to join the Chamber in commending her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, one of the hallmarks of good citizenship is the willingness to take of your own time to devote to others. I therefore think it fitting that we recognize these four people for their significant achievements.

THE AVENUE OF THE PINES

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, one of the most attractive streets in New York State will soon be a virtual monument to the work of one of the state's finest companies, Finch, Pruyn & Company, Inc. It's not only one of the most famous tree-lined avenues in the Capital District, but in my opinion one of the most beautiful in the country. It's the Avenue of the Pines in the Saratoga Spa State Park.

My primary district office is in Saratoga Springs and I always look for an excuse to take Avenue of the Pines whenever I visit a neighboring community. That's why I'm glad to see that the avenue's priceless stand of more than 150 white and red pines is getting such attention from a company well-qualified to render it.

Finch, Pruyn & Company has long been an outstanding corporate neighbor in my hometown of Glens Falls. Its president and CEO, Dick Carota, is a real up-from-the-ranks kind of guy who knows every job description in the company from personal experience. He's a real All-American success story, and Finch, Pruyn is an All-American kind of company, providing not only employment, but a nicer place to live for everybody.

In addition to being a giant in the paper industry, Finch, Pruyn directs a nationally-recognized forest management program. In partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the company will do borings near the site to determine the age of the trees. Finch, Pruyn will then conduct further research on the effects of vehicular traffic, snow and ice maintenance practices, road salt, wildlife, pests, and diseases.

Four rows of trees were first planted in 1912. Six years later, the walkway was widened and paved for use by vehicles. There have been some modifications since then, but the avenue remains what it always was, one of the most enjoyable stretches of driving in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, Finch, Pruyn's scientists are the best, and the people of our district can be sure the study will be as thorough as it is interesting. Finch, Pruyn was a pioneer in the field of sustainable forestry as far back as the last century, and later hired the country's best professional foresters. The company is equally advanced in protecting the environment. The company has invested more than \$100 million in the last three decades, including \$10 million