

working to prepare for the probable arrival of Hurricane Floyd. Hurricane Floyd is a Class Four, possibly Class Five, hurricane right now, which represents an extremely powerful and strong storm. The last hurricane that was a Class Four to hit the United States was Hurricane Andrew.

I had the opportunity to go down into the devastated area after Hurricane Andrew came through south Florida as part of a program involving the Florida Medical Society. I went into the area to work in a clinic, and I was able to see firsthand the devastation wrought by this powerful storm, and it is for that reason that my heart, my concerns, my prayers go out to all those people who are being now asked to respond to this devastating storm, and in particular those people who are being asked to evacuate. Emergency management personnel are now calling for the evacuation of many of the barrier island communities such as the community of Indialantic in my congressional district.

Additionally, the storm is projected to go up the coast and come very close to Kennedy Space Center, and I had the opportunity to visit Kennedy Space Center today and review there with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the Senate Director, Roy Bridges, the preparations that are underway. At Kennedy Space Center right now is about \$8 billion worth of space station hardware that is being prepared for launch on the space shuttle. Obviously, all the space shuttles are there as well. And the crews are doing a great job in getting ready, and boarding up the buildings and preparing the equipment for the arrival of this storm, and I would be very happy to yield to my colleague from Orlando, Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding both because I want to comment on this storm with him as I know all about the east coast of Florida is preparing for what could be one of the most serious hurricanes to strike the United States in years, including Hurricane Andrew; and we all pray that it does not happen.

We do not want to see it strike landfall anywhere because of the strength and power of this storm, but it could be particularly devastating to our coastline and for the families that are there; but also to comment with him, as he has pointed out on the fact, that we were today at the Cape. I was scheduled as my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), knows to go with him to visit and tour the Cape for other reasons, as it is a neighboring district to mine and I have a great interest in the space program, as the gentleman and I have shared over the years.

But to me to be there today when they were making these preparations is a reminder of the enormous task that NASA has to be involved with not only in launch preparations in terms of all

of the shuttle program and now the space station program and the tremendous effort and dedication the men and women there for those purposes, but also to prepare for disasters like this, to protect those valuable goods that are there at taxpayer expenses.

So I want to pay tribute with the gentleman from Florida tonight to the men and women who work at the Cape for all they have done to be dedicated not only to the program itself, but to the preparation each and every time there has been an approaching storm like this, but particularly now.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I, too, would ask that all Members keep the communities not only in coastal Florida, but as well Georgia and South Carolina in the path of this devastating storm in their thoughts and prayers. We have great emergency management personnel that are preparing the communities and getting ready for the arrival of Hurricane Floyd; and we certainly do hope that the winds carry it out to sea further up north into the cooler waters of the Atlantic where it could be downgraded into a tropical storm and then ultimately perhaps just become a rain storm.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield again?

Mr. WELDON of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. As my colleague knows, one of the things that we talked about today that was impressive to me is this is just the wind damage that could be terrible and devastating. It is the storm surge itself, the water levels, pointed out at the Cape that that could come up 6 to 15 feet above sea level; and I know that is important to everybody concerned with the protection of all of the valuable equipment that is there.

But in addition to that, in your district and in many others along the coast of Florida there are many, many homes that are at a level which could be devastated by this, not just right on the beaches, but inland, too, if the water surge and storm surge comes up that much.

So there is a great threat in the storm that is approaching, not just in the wind and the things you read about from the tornadoes and the storms that are spawned by it, but also by the tremendous potential for flooding and water damage from that surge.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RUSH addressed the House. HIS remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF FATHER HILARIO MADEIRA AND FATHER FRANCISCO SOARES WHO WERE MURDERED IN EAST TIMOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the news that Indonesia will allow an international peacekeeping force into East Timor, but let me emphasize that the international community must act quickly before more lives are lost.

Shortly before the August 30 referendum on independence, I was in East Timor with two of my colleagues from the other body. Dili was a bustling city as it prepared for the U.N.-supervised vote. We were the only Congressional delegation to travel to East Timor before the elections and the last Members of Congress to see Dili as it once was. The burned, looted, and destroyed city emptied of its people is heartbreaking. Our delegation traveled to two towns along the western border, Maliana and Suai; and I would like to share some of what I saw in Suai.

August is the dry season in East Timor. It was sweltering, hot and dusty. In this poor town we went to the Catholic church compound where over 2,000 people were seeking refuge. Father Hilario Madeira, the senior parish priest, and Father Francisco Soares who would be our guides greeted us. They introduced us to their world, one filled with worry and tension and subjected daily to violence and intimidation by the Indonesian military and militias organized and armed by the Indonesian armed forces.

Despite the strain and uncertainty of their situation, I was impressed by Father Hilario and Father Francisco's warmth, good humor, hospitality, and steady nerves. Here were men carrying out God's mandate to love and care for your neighbor, protect the weak and live humbly.

In talking to the refugees, we discovered most had been burned out of their homes or forcibly evicted. The majority were women and children. They sought refuge in the church compound surrounded by militia who over the past 2 days had cut off all their food and water.

Our delegation met with town officials asking that the water be restored. It was clear that militias were in charge of the water and that town officials would do nothing. The armed Indonesian police and soldiers, those charged with protection and security of the East Timorese people during the U.N. process, stood in the shade doing nothing, laughing and joking with the militias.

When I met with President Habibie in Jakarta, we demanded the water be restored in Suai. Less than 24 hours later the militias turned on the water.

Father Hilario shared with us his concerns about the current violence and his fears about violent retaliation