

Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Gaston and Tropical Storm Bonnie. H.R. 5005 will provide FEMA with an additional \$2 billion to ensure that they can continue providing without interruption the much needed support and assistance to the victims of these storms.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN LOWELL, MICHIGAN

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the congregation of the First Baptist Church in Lowell, Michigan, which celebrates the 150th anniversary of its formation on Sunday, September 19, 2004.

The First Baptist Church was started on Sept. 18, 1854, meeting for worship originally in the Lowell Schoolhouse under the leadership of their first pastor, the Rev. A.C. Powell. In 1860, the congregation moved into its own building, which was erected by the congregation members themselves. By 1866, the congregation boasted 74 active members.

In 1898, the nearly 40-year-old building was moved approximately 20 feet and expanded to hold about 400 people. The congregation flourished in the community and sent many young men out for church mission work throughout the country. However, by the late 1930s, the church saw major declines in its membership and it temporarily closed its doors. In the early 1940s, the church reopened as a struggling mission church under the Rev. Mel Stadt.

In 1949, the Rev. M.K. McIver took the pulpit, and the church saw such resurgent growth that the old building soon was deemed outdated and inadequate. By 1967, a new church building was dedicated and continues to serve as the church's home today. In 1983, a new auditorium was added and, through the years, staff continued to change and new positions were added.

In the past decade, the church has undergone a three-phase renovation that has added space for programs and staff, while hosting five new missionaries since 1999. Today, the church continues to thrive under the leadership of Pastor of Ministries Rev. W. Lee Taylor and Youth Pastor Wayne Haines.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that you and all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating Rev. Taylor, Pastor Haines and the members of First Baptist Church for their 150 years of service and worship in Lowell, Michigan. They have been blessed in their ministry, and their community has been blessed by their presence.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLCHESTER (CT) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's firefighters stand ready to protect lives and

property 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Firefighters have no holiday because the types of disasters they face can happen anytime.

In Connecticut's Second District, which I am proud to represent, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Colchester has issued a proclamation recognizing the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company's 150 years of service. I come to the floor of the House of Representatives to add my voice to thanking all the members, past and present, of this wonderful Fire Company.

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department was established in February 1854, by Nathaniel Hayward. Mr. Hayward donated 200 feet of hose to the fire department, providing the Borough of Colchester agreed to buy the first fire engine. In October of that year the first hand pumper was purchased.

The company grew over the years. In 1913, the first gasoline water pump was purchased. In 1934 the fire station expanded to two engine bays, and by the 1960s the station had four bays. In 1974 the first paid firefighter was hired, and in 1989 the dedication of a new fire station, on Old Hartford Road, took place. In 1993 the fire department began handling emergency medical services, and in 2004 the town of Colchester appointed the first paid fire chief, Walter Cox, who leads more than 125 volunteers.

But despite these changes, one thing has remained constant. Today, as in the past, those who wear the uniform of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department have only one goal—to protect the people of their community.

I once saw a bumper sticker that said: "On the eighth day God created firefighters." That's not much of an exaggeration. How many of us would go into a burning building to save a total stranger? How many of us would run towards danger while others are running the other way?

It takes a special person to be a firefighter. For 150 years the dedicated professionals of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department have provided quality service. Through their selfless efforts they make their community a better place in which to live, work and raise a family. I urge this Congress to join me in honor of 150 years of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department.

CONGRATULATING THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate The College of New Jersey on its Sesquicentennial. The College of New Jersey's academic tradition reaches back to 1855 when it was established by the state legislature as the New Jersey State Normal School. It was the first teacher training school in the state and the ninth in the nation. Governor Rodman Price, sometimes called the founder of the New Jersey Normal School, promoted

the idea of a training institute for New Jersey's teachers and mobilized support among influential state leaders.

Originally located on Clinton Avenue in Trenton, the Normal School flourished in the latter 1800s, expanding both its academic offerings and physical facilities. In 1925, the first four-year baccalaureate degree program was established. This change marked the beginning of The College of New Jersey's transition from a normal school to a teachers' college and was accompanied by a change in physical surroundings. In 1928, a beautiful 210-acre tract of land in Ewing Township was purchased as a new site for The College.

Today, education—and higher education in particular—is more important than ever to solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country. Access to an affordable, quality education is inseparable from our economic prosperity, national security, and civic health.

I believe that The College of New Jersey is part of the solution to our pressing problems. In a world where other nations are investing far more of their resources in education and research, and are producing graduates who rival our own in many areas of manufacturing and development, a high quality education is essential to our future success.

But higher education is more than just the means to achieve higher earning potential or to raise revenue; it is also a life-enriching experience. A key component of the university mission is to foster the academic and personal development of students civic engagement and community service, where students learn how to be active participants in democracy, as well as team athletics and student government, where students gain valuable leadership experience.

The policies that we craft to enhance and advance education must close the achievement gap between the rich and the poor, and minority and non-minority students. They must help to recruit and retain top young college graduates into teaching, nursing, and other high priority fields to meet the country's needs. Our policies must also make a quality college education accessible and affordable for all Americans, and harness the power of higher education to move this country forward.

The College of New Jersey is leading the way in accessibility and affordability. The College of New Jersey emphasizes the undergraduate experience. Academic programs are designed to provide students with an undergraduate education of exceptional quality. More than fifty liberal arts and professional programs are now offered through The College's seven schools; Art, Music and Media; Business; Culture and Society; Education; Engineering, Nursing; and Science.

Today, The College provides academically prepared student with a challenging undergraduate education and a rewarding residential experience, small classes, and a prestigious faculty. Once again, I congratulate The College of New Jersey on its Sesquicentennial and I look forward to another one hundred and fifty years.