

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