Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join today in paying tribute to a Saint Patrick’s Parish in San Francisco, California, which is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. From its humble beginnings the Parish has blossomed into a San Francisco institution that has weathered wars, troubled times, and the occasional earthquake. Despite those hardships, for the last 150 years Saint Patrick’s Parish has remained a structure of faith for its parishioners.

Shortly after Fr. John Maginnis celebrated the first mass in a rented hall on June 9, 1851, a temporary Church was constructed, and Saint Patrick’s had established a foot hold in San Francisco. During this time, California was experiencing the Gold Rush, which brought the proliferation of industry and commerce to the area, and resulted in the population of San Francisco growing rapidly. The Parish responded to this expansion by purchasing a lot on Mission Street, between Third and Fourth Streets and started construction of a magnificent new Church. After two years, construction was completed, and the new Church was dedicated on March 17, 1872 at which time the Catholic population of the parish was estimated at 30,000 parishioners.

Having overseen the construction of the Church, Fr. Maginnis now set his sights on new projects, and soon founded both the St. Vincent School for Girls and the St. Patrick’s School for Boys. Both schools were taught by the Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Maryland, and served the Parish until 1964. After the schools closed, the site was later transformed into the Alexies Apartments for the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, for the first fifty-four years after its founding, Saint Patrick’s Parish knew only one pastor, Father John Maginnis. Fr. Maginnis was succeeded by the Reverend Monsignor John Rogers in 1905. Shortly thereafter, the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 struck, and the Church was reduced to rubble. This catastrophe of biblical proportions was met head on by Msgr. Rogers and the parishioners of St. Patrick’s. After establishing a men’s shelter named Tir-na-Nog, which is Gaelic for Land of Youth, Msgr. Rog ers began the reconstruction of the Church. The reconstruction was completed and the Church was rededicated in 1914. An impressive brick structure, Saint Patrick’s Church still stands majestic as a living memorial to the undaunted faith and endurance of people who gave of themselves in times of personal hardship to build this institution.

Mr. Speaker, for the last century and a half years Saint Patrick’s Parish has provided for the spiritual needs of the community, as well as run programs to aid the elderly, youth, and the marginalized. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Saint Patrick’s Parish in marking their sesquicentennial.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Dave McElhatton for a distinguished 50-year career in journalism. We wish Dave and his wife, Karen, a retirement replete with richly deserved good health and happiness.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the accomplishments of Kelvin Torbert, a senior at Flint Northwestern High School. Kelvin was chosen...