

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell.

Finally, and perhaps more important than all of these things, Secretary White believes strongly in his family, describing them as "my supporting foundation." His devotion to his wife Susan and three children—Katie, Tommy, and Chuck—is worthy of imitation in our country today.

On behalf of the entire congressional delegation from the great State of Texas, and for those who wish to restore a strong and vigorous national defense led by the United States Army, I wish the very best for this extremely capable and dedicated public servant. I am confident that Secretary White will serve this nation with honor, integrity, and success.

HONORING CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON OF THE BEECH LADY BUCCANEERS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Beech High School Lady Buccaneers. The Lady Buccaneers had a tremendous season by winning the 2001 Class AAA girls softball state championship.

Residents of Hendersonville, Tennessee, can be proud of their Lady Buccaneers. The team went 45–6 this season and displayed remarkable perservance and resilience. This season's state championship marks the second time since 1997 the team has won the tournament. And the Lady Bucs have reached the championship game four times during that span.

The Lady Bucs won the finale in dramatic fashion by scoring two runs against their opponents in the top of the 10th inning. The final score was 2–1, with Beech outdistancing another fine Middle Tennessee team, the Columbia Lady Lions.

I commend the Lady Buccaneers and their head coach, Kristi Brinkley, for a fine season and an outstanding win. The following are members of the 2001 state champion Lady Buccaneers: Brittany Barry, Marley Birdwell, Courtney Boynton, Amy Chatham, Casey Duke, Nicole Eckley, Jennifer Grybash, Camille Harris, Cristin James, Courtney Langston, Carissa Lowery, Ashley Sinyard, Brittney Sinyard, Allie Smith, Kristin Stanfill and Amber Warren. Wayne Smith and Mary Day Reynolds also serve as the team's assistant coaches.

HONORING ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to St. Patrick's Church in San Francisco as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Located in the same neighborhood where it was found-

ed, St. Patrick's has been steadfast in meeting the spiritual needs of its parishioners even as the neighborhood has changed around it. Recently seismically retrofitted, it is my honor to congratulate St. Patrick's as it prepares for the next 150 years.

The founding of St. Patrick's was part of the boom that accompanied the Gold Rush; the dramatic increase in population required a similar increase in services. As housing was constructed and new businesses opened their doors, Father John Maginnis held St. Patrick's first mass in a rented hall in 1851. Within a few months, a temporary church's future expansion. Construction began in 1870, and on March 17, 1872 the new church was built nearby. By 1854, it became evident that St. Patrick's would need a larger home, and a lot was purchased for the church's future expansion. Construction began in 1870, and on March 17, 1872 the new church was dedicated at its current location on Mission Street between Third and Fourth Streets.

Like much of San Francisco, the church was destroyed in the earthquake and subsequent fire of 1906. Though it temporarily did not have a home, it did have a calling. St. Patrick's deferred its own full reconstruction in order to minister to the immediate needs of the city. When the current building was completed and dedicated in 1914, it quickly became a San Francisco landmark. Beautifully designed under the supervision of Monsignor John Roberts, the church is decorated in the Irish national colors and tells the story of St. Patrick and other Irish saints.

Throughout its history, St. Patrick's has served the community. In the first year of the Parish, St. Patrick's worked with the Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Maryland to run the St. Vincent's School for Girls and the St. Patrick's School for Boys. In 1927, Father Rogers built the Tir-Na-Nog (Gaelic for "land of youth") men's shelter. When the Boys and Girls schools were closed in 1964 due to changing neighborhood demographics, St. Patrick's helped to build the Alexis Apartments for the elderly on the same site. The church provides meals, housing, clothing, and furniture to those in need.

The congregation of St. Patrick's has changed over the years but its commitment to serving those who come through its doors has never wavered. The church was originally composed of Irish immigrants and their descendants. In the middle of this century, the parishioners came increasingly from Spanish-speaking countries. More recently, it has been the City's Filipino population that has found a home at St. Patrick's. Its downtown location and status as a tourist destination also ensure a diverse group of worshippers on any particular Sunday.

Around St. Patrick's, the buildings have grown higher and the rents more expensive; its neighbors now include a luxury hotel and a billion dollar entertainment complex. St. Patrick's, through, remains an oasis in the middle of a bustling city, tending to the poor and those in need for 150 years. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate St. Patrick's Church on this Anniversary and to thank Monsignor Fred Bitanga and all of the staff at St. Patrick's for their work in our City.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FAIRNESS ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to re-introduce the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act. Last year many of my constituents were placed into a special hazard flood area that requires them to purchase flood insurance that can cost over \$1,000 per year.

These residents were not notified that they would be required to purchase flood insurance until two months or less before the maps became effective, even though the law is supposed to give them six months notice and ample time to purchase flood insurance. Needless to say, this took many of my constituents by surprise when they were required to purchase costly insurance at a moments notice, having not seen flooding in decades or even a lifetime.

Several residents who did not believe that were in the flood zone hired surveyors at their own expense, and many residents continue to hire surveyors. The private surveyors' data has resulted in removal of homes from the special hazard flood area, thus removing them from their obligation to purchase flood insurance. In the long run, while these residents are not required to purchase flood insurance, they have spent over \$200 each for surveyor costs. Unfortunately, this cost burden is the responsibility of the property owner. They were told by FEMA that under current law property owners who challenge the presumed flood classification are responsible for the surveyor expense even though the incorrect classification is no fault of their own.

Clearly, the National Flood Insurance Program needs to be revised to give homeowners more notice, due process, and financial protection when they succeed in removing their property from the base flood elevation classification. That is why I am proposing the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act.

The National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act does the following:

The bill improves the existing program by requiring the FEMA Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer

It also requires the Director to notify by registered mail, rather than first class mail, the Chief Executive Officer of each community of FEMA's response to the community's appeal of the flood insurance rate maps. This change will ensure that the community receives the notice of changes and has ample time to comply with the map changes within the statutory effective date.

The bill improves upon current law by requiring the Director to notify by first class mail each owner of property affected by the changes in the flood insurance rate maps. Currently, the community is responsible for making sure that the residents are aware of the flood map changes. Requiring FEMA to notify residents expedites the process by eliminating the middleman.

Finally, it requires FEMA to reimburse a resident or property owner for reasonable