

ended the first World War. The men and women who sacrificed and served during WWI were honored and remembered, in hopes that their service would be the last time American soldiers were called upon for such duties. Regrettably, our men and women continue to answer the call. Fortunately, our VA Medical Centers continue to provide the care that our veterans so desperately need.

It is the spirit of those who work at these centers, the spirit of the American people and the will of the American armed forces that keep this country strong. Veteran's Day should serve as a reminder to every American that our armed forces, both of past and present, are made up of individuals of great courage, character and honor.

It is our duty to ensure that our children and grandchildren never forget our country's finest heroes and always know their sacrifice. We must take the time to pay tribute to our fallen heroes, not just on Veteran's Day, but every day. Their sacrifices and those of our military families are freedom's foundation. Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and their families, our country would not stand so boldly, shine so brightly and live so freely.

The United States has attained its position of strength and prosperity thanks to the dedication of our veterans and our armed forces. No other group of Americans has stood stronger and braver for our democracy than our troops and veterans. We must always celebrate, honor and remember these courageous and faithful men and women.

**SALUTE TO HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS AT JPS HEALTH NETWORK**

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the States along the gulf coast have endured terrible hardships during this hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today, I want to specifically thank one company and their donation. JPS Health Network registered 1011 Hurricane Katrina evacuees and admitted 230 to the hospital for radiology, lab work, or other services.

Committed to improving the health of families and individuals in Tarrant County, JPS Health Network includes John Peter Smith Hospital, the JPS Institute for Health Career Development, a network of community-based health centers, home care and psychiatric services at Trinity Springs Pavilion.

I stand here today to sincerely thank JPS for their help and donation. It is people like them that I am proud to call fellow Texans. Through their contribution, they not only stand as devoted and giving American citizens, but they serve as an inspiration to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 25, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted the following: "yea" on rollcall vote number 536, the American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act, and "yea" on rollcall vote number 537, Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the White House Fellows Program.

**HONORING SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH OF WESTERN SPRINGS, ILLINOIS, AS THEY CELEBRATE THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISH**

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Catholic Community of Saint John of the Cross of Western Springs, Illinois on celebrating their 45th Anniversary of the parish.

St. John of the Cross was created in May 1960 with the appointment of Rev. William J. Bennett. In September of 1961 the one million dollar building was completed, which included the living quarters for the parish priests, the worship space, and the classroom space for 600 students. The parish was built on 5.5 acres of land but over the years through fundraising, the parish doubled to the present size of 11 acres.

In 1980, Father Bennett retired, and Rev. Joseph McDonnell became the second pastor of the parish. The parish began to expand through various programs such as religious education, liturgical ministries, and other social organizations. Additional space was then needed to accommodate for the growing number of organizations within the parish, so in 1988, Father McDonnell and the Parish Council agreed to construct a Parish Center. This Parish Center included space for daily worship, private prayer, the day school, religious education, parish meetings, staff offices, choir rehearsal and many more activities.

After 16 years as pastor, Father McDonnell retired in August of 1996 from the parish. Reverend Richard Hynes, the current pastor, was appointed by Cardinal Bernardin to succeed Father McDonnell. Father Hynes has been committed to spreading the awareness of the Catholic tradition to the parish community.

It is quite obvious that over the 45 years of Saint John of the Cross, the parish community has grown stronger through their worship, formation, and charity.

It is my honor to recognize Saint John of the Cross of Western Springs, Illinois on celebrating 45 years of service to spreading the Catholic faith throughout the community.

**H.R. 3824, THE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT**

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act, TESRA. This legislation is needed to make important changes to the Endangered Species Act, ESA, which, after 30 years of implementation, has been unable to return endangered species to healthy and sustainable populations and has caused turmoil for landowners and local communities across the country, especially in my district in California.

As you know, recent U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, FWS, studies indicate that ESA has successfully recovered less than 1 percent of species listed in the original law. Frankly, this is far from being an exemplary model of effective legislation.

TESRA offers a new emphasis on recovery, which will require the identification of lands important to the conservation and resurgence of species. The bill provides numerous tools to promote preservation on private lands without further increasing the size of the federal estate.

TESRA also lists specific difference to distinguish between endangered and threatened species. TESRA requires rules, which will regulate that threatened species be disseminated on a case by case basis rather than by some overarching rule for all threatened species. By these requirements, TESRA provides a flexibility that can be central to effectively promoting conservation.

I would like to commend Chairman POMBO for his efforts in this legislation and would like to express my full support for the underlying bill.

**HONORING MR. CHARLES O. WRIGHT FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE OAKLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the duty of promoting, developing and preserving the economic environment and quality of life of a community is a personal contribution to the democracy that has made America the great country it is today. Leaders are looked upon for advice, ideas and stability to sustain the growth and security of our communities.

In recognition of the outstanding dedication and personal leadership to a community, I am pleased to extend my warmest commendation to Mr. Charles O. Wright for his services to the Oakland Chamber of Commerce in Oakland, New Jersey.

For the last 25 years, businesses as well as prospective college students in Oakland, NJ have flourished on his behalf. In 1981, Mr. Wright was selected to join the Chamber's Board of Directors. Soon after, he served as