

anyway. They had a Christmas miracle of a sort: Not a single human life was lost; and, in fact, nine new lives came into the world on the night of the storm.

Typhoon Paka was an extraordinary storm. A super typhoon with a double eye wall packing maximum sustained winds of 160 miles per hour and gusts of 195 miles per hour. One gust was clocked by the Air Force at 236 miles per hour, making it the strongest ever recorded. While experts continue to debate the accuracy of this reading, only wind speed captured national media attention, and then only briefly.

To have survived this enormous disaster with no loss of life is a testament to the resilience and vitality of the people of Guam, and I am proud to tell of the courage and strength and endurance of my people.

Immediately after the typhoon, residents from every corner of the island had stories to tell about the care and concern, the support and help that the more fortunate shared generously. Residents with generators ran extension cords to neighbors without power.

Caring people, like Carl Sgambelluri, knew that his old friend, Juan Cepeda, a disabled vet, would need help. Without being asked, Mr. Sgambelluri brought Mr. Cepeda a 1,000-gallon water trailer and a generator. He then got the generator going and left to help others.

Mr. Sgambelluri, the Fernandez and Poppe brothers, young George Quinata, Wally Hollis, Paul Cepeda, and bus drivers John Angoco and Joe Castro, who helped the Agana Heights Mayor Paul McDonald rescue five families, are among the many, many people who helped others to cope with this devastating storm.

Help also came with the Federal disaster declaration by the President the day after the storm. FEMA came and organized the Federal response team consisting of representatives of DOD, SBA, HUD, HHS, Labor, Corps of Engineers, Interior.

To date, FEMA has provided over \$8 million for debris removal, \$12 million in housing assistance, \$51 million in individual and family grants, and over \$7.5 million in SBA loans. The American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other volunteer service agencies have also worked hard to provide food and shelter, clothing and other household needs to the people of Guam.

When the Guam Power Authority originally announced that it would take 3 months to restore power, island-wide hearts sank. Yet now we are 6 weeks into the recovery and with help from crews from the Northern Marianas, Palau, Yap, Ponpei, Hawaii, California, and even the Air Force, repairs are more than 83 percent complete. This is phenomenal for those of us who endured a lack of electricity for months in previous typhoons.

The government of Guam, under the leadership of Governor Carl Gutierrez, the mayors of Guam, the employees of

GovGuam, were all tested in this latest typhoon and all passed with flying colors.

As we begin to plan the long-term recovery efforts, I will be working closely with FEMA and my colleagues in Congress to identify hazard mitigation projects and other ways to prepare for future typhoons and natural disasters. I have met with FEMA Director Witt who is organizing a Federal task force on Typhoon Paka. The government of Guam will be working closely with the Federal task force to recommend mitigation efforts for the island.

I want to applaud all the staff of FEMA who are involved in the Typhoon Paka relief efforts, especially Dale Peterson who is the Federal coordinating officer assigned to Guam, for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the people of Guam.

Washington and Guam may be separated by 10,000 miles, but when disaster strikes, the public servants at FEMA and other Federal agencies come through with flying colors to help their fellow Americans in the Pacific.

The story of Typhoon Paka may soon fade with the passage of time, but there are lessons that we can all benefit from. Perhaps this is what makes Guam so special. Because we live in "Typhoon Alley," we have learned those lessons well; and we have often learned to take stock of things that are really important.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ALLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

STATE OF THE UNION

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud American and a very proud Democrat. Tonight, 2 years ahead of schedule, the President of the United States will present to the American people its first balanced budget in 3 decades.

For many Americans listening to President Clinton's State of the Union

message, this will be the first moment in their lifetime to witness the President of the United States present his vision for the future in the context of a balanced budget. They will know for the first time in their lifetime that our Nation's strong economy, built upon sound fiscal policy, will be able to secure their future.

They will hear a vision committed to excellence in education, to quality health care for all Americans, to safe, high-quality care for our youngest children; and, most of all, they will hear from a President committed to ensuring that potential budget surpluses safeguard Social Security and Medicare for future generations.

Education, child care, health care, security in our senior years, all in the context of a balanced budget. Mr. Speaker, as a Democrat, I am proud of these achievements that provide opportunity and security for all working families.

SAFEGUARDING SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE PRUDENT USE OF BUDGET SURPLUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NEUMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin today on a solemn note and extend my condolences to the BONO family and recognize SONNY for the great man he was.

I will never forget the first time that my daughter found out that SONNY BONO was serving in Congress and came in with the same class that I came in with in 1995, and she could not figure out what her father was doing in the same place as somebody as important as SONNY BONO.

So, Mary, our condolences are with you and your family; and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I, for one, think you are going to be a great Congresswoman if you decide that is the direction you are going to go.

Mr. Speaker, on a light and positive note I would like to extend my congratulations to the Green Bay Packers. I am from the great State of Wisconsin and some think they did not win their second Superbowl on Sunday. In fact, what happened is that they just put off winning their second Superbowl in the 1990's for 12 months.

Some people around this Nation and some of my colleagues do not realize that the Packers are made up of a lot more than a football team. There is a lot of integrity in that group of individuals, people like Reggie White, who our young people look to as an example of leadership and for all the right reasons in this Nation. It is truly a pleasure to have not only the greatest football team in the country but also a team with the integrity that the Green Bay Packers have in the great State of Wisconsin.