

It has been a pleasure and an honor serving with both of you, and this is one tough New Yorker who's not afraid to say "I'll miss you". Farewell, old friends.

RECOGNIZING THE MISSISSIPPI
MILITARY COMMUNITY FOR ITS
SUPPORT DURING HURRICANE
IVAN

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with Congress the actions of some of Mississippi's often unsung heroes and their recent efforts in the face of a mighty storm.

The damaging effects and extraordinary loss caused by Hurricane Ivan cannot help but make a lasting impression on anyone who sees them. For those of us who love the Gulf Coast, with its deep beauty and usually gentle but sometimes ferocious character, this is especially poignant. We also understand the value of community when facing a disaster like Hurricane Ivan. Although many contributed to the preparation and recovery from Ivan, I would like to take a moment to recognize an extraordinary group of our neighbors that never seek recognition: our Mississippi military community.

On the Mississippi Gulf Coast, during the 2004 hurricane season, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron once again earned the right to call themselves the "Hurricane Hunters." The 53rd flew nearly every day after July 30th, sometimes into two different storms simultaneously. Because of their courage and professionalism, those of us back home and across the nation were able to track Ivan, properly prepare our communities, and—as the 53rd has allowed us so many times in the past—save lives.

The Naval Air Station Meridian Team of military, civilians and contractors worked selflessly and shoulder to shoulder to provide a safe haven for those caught in Ivan's path. Station aircraft were sorted or otherwise safeguarded. NAS Meridian provided Air Traffic Control and refueling services to over 90 aircraft evacuating Whiting Field in Milton, Florida. They provided food, shelter and support throughout the storm to over 1,000 evacuees and 100 pets. Neighbors rose to the occasion to make sure there was room for everyone. Many families living in base housing opened their homes to friends and comrades from Gulf Coast units. In Ivan's aftermath, evacuees were assured care until it was safe to return to their homes in south Mississippi and coastal Alabama and Florida. Station crews went immediately to work with their neighbors to care for the community. Most impressively, this team of highly dedicated and skilled professionals fully restored the base to resume the business of the nation within hours of the storm's passage.

As Ivan approached, Columbus Air Force Base crews were hard at work providing a safe location for Coast Guard aircraft caught in the path of the hurricane. The Federal Emergency Management Agency also recognized that Columbus had a great deal to offer and quickly established a staging area on base. Evacuees seeking refuge in north Mis-

issippi were also assured shelter. Just like at NAS Meridian, the outstanding staff and base volunteers went immediately to work and quickly restored their base and community moments after the storm passed by.

Our National Guardsmen continue to inspire and impress. With nearly half of Mississippi's Guard troops mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, our Adjutant General made available the state's remaining forces to support those along Ivan's projected course, as well as in communities devastated by previous storms in Florida. In south Mississippi, troops were arriving long before Ivan made landfall. After the storm, our Guard made a tremendous difference in getting badly required relief to those who needed it most. Regardless of the threat, I take great comfort in knowing our Guardsmen are on the job looking after us here at home and abroad.

We Mississippians have repeatedly witnessed the unique capabilities of our SEABEES across the globe and over the years, but we will always remember their support after Hurricane Camille ravaged our state in 1969. Although we were fortunate to not bear the brunt of Ivan, our Gulfport SEABEES proved they were there for those that did. I was most impressed with their ability to, within 18 hours of Hurricane Ivan's passing, put large numbers of people, equipment and logistics support from the Construction Battalion Center Gulfport on the most critical disaster recovery and service restoration missions at NAS Pensacola. We Mississippians are proud of our SEABEES, deployed in Iraq and elsewhere around the world, and know from first hand experience that they will always be true to their motto "with Compassion for others—we build, we fight—for peace with freedom."

In peace or war, against the terrors of evil men or the ravages of nature, Mississippians seek to secure our homes and neighbors from danger. From Columbus to Keesler and Pascagoula to the Stennis Space Center, Mississippi continues to show that we have the full military package: our citizens serve bravely in our armed forces both domestically and abroad; our bases train and prepare our nation's top pilots and troops; our universities provide cutting edge military research and technology; while our manufacturers produce vehicles, radar and aircraft our forces need for their missions. In my district, I am particularly proud to count as neighbors the Navy's finest advanced jet-training base and two of the National Guard's premiere air wings. Our individual Mississippi National Guardsmen do tremendous work every day to safeguard the defense of our great nation. We Mississippians greatly appreciate that the patriots who so nobly operate our bases are also the neighbors who stand with us in the face of terrorism and disasters like Hurricane Ivan. To them I offer my gratitude, and the thanks of their fellow Mississippians.

HONORING TOM FOGLIETTA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a colleague and friend who passed away this

week—someone who left a profound mark on his community, his Nation and this institution. No one could deny the dedication and passion that Tom Foglietta brought to life—whether it was for working people, for friends or for our friends in the international community. He was special—a man with a common touch and high ideals.

With Tom, you always knew you were with someone who would fight—who was with you until the end regardless of the odds or the politics of the matter. As I reflect on his time in the Congress, I remember a man who understood what it meant to bring the values of his constituents to Washington.

When his district changed from being predominantly white to overwhelmingly African-American, I remember how Tom made that transition so effortlessly—how he worked to establish himself with his new constituents and make sure they knew that representing them—their hopes, their dreams—was his number one priority. They learned what we all knew—that whether you had just met Tom or knew him for decades, when he looked you in the eye and gave his word, you had his word. You took it home.

And nothing represented that commitment like the way he fought to keep the Philadelphia Navy Yard open. Even as everyone believed it was sure to close, Tom continued to bring back Federal money to the yard—much, as I understand, to the surprise of even the Navy itself. But it was what he did once the Commission finally decided to close the yard that showed Tom Foglietta was not only a man of the people but also a man of real vision.

First, he went down to that yard and announced the closing before a sea of angry workers. I think everyone in this body understands how extraordinary that can be—facing the people head-on, delivering bad news.

Then, while others were still in denial, Tom put all his efforts into doing something even the shipyard workers had not yet embraced. Rather than fighting what he knew was a losing battle to keep the yard open, he went ahead, full-steam, to transform it into an economic resource for the community—a technology and business incubator—and secured a \$50 million appropriation for the yard's conversion.

Today, that yard employs 6,000 Philadelphians—some of whom even use the old docks to work on ships. Nobody believed it was possible. But Tom Foglietta did. Whether it was modernizing the shipyard or involving the Army Corps of Engineers when an African-American neighborhood in Philadelphia had homes that were literally sinking into the ground, he knew that fighting for people was not just a matter of perseverance. That it was also a matter of foresight, creativity and vision.

A fellow Italian-American, Tom and I often discussed how it was our parents' example serving on our respective city councils—his in Philadelphia, mine in New Haven—that inspired us to enter a life of politics and give back to the communities that had given us so much. He knew that preserving our heritage was a matter of values, which is why as a Member of Congress he took on the fight back home to create Christopher Columbus Boulevard in south Philly.

When he became Ambassador to Italy, Tom made and kept a commitment to visit every province in Italy. To Tom, Italy was not some