

Seeing the trolley car parked in front of the gates, Tina Clarke said she felt like a teenager again, as she was when she protested with the county chapter of the NAACP. She said she still could feel the spit on her cheek from a white male heckler that stained the white collar of her blouse.

"There is no time frame on when pain and suffering should end," said Clarke, 67, African American liaison for Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan (D).

Clarke said she had to explain to friends and relatives who questioned her decision to return to the park that it is now an arts and cultural center operated by a nonprofit partnership with lands managed by the National Park Service.

"It's not just my history; it's our history," she said. "It's part of what helped us get to where we are today. If none of these things happened, where would we be?"

But the park is a troubling memory for some who were children at the time. When Vernon Ricks drives past the park from his home in Potomac, he remembers riding the trolley car to the entrance on Sundays. From the windows, he could see the neon lights, the merry-go-round and the wooden roller coaster, but he could not enter. He attended the gathering because his wife, Janet, wanted to "start the healing of a scar," she said.

"To me, it is still a symbol of segregation," said Ricks, 66. "I'm still not happy to be here."

Later, he added, "Don't say I'm coming back."

Taking her husband's hand, Janet Ricks said, "Yes, you are. Yes, you are."

HONORING NORTH OAKLAND MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of North Oakland Missionary Baptist Church of Oakland, California on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Organized between 1904 and 1905, the church was originally known as Richard Clark Memorial and then as North Oakland Church of Christ before adopting its current name. North Oakland's congregation began as a small handful of faithful community residents that met at members' homes and other locations before pooling their resources to build the first church on Alden Street. Reverend J.A. Dennis was designated as the first pastor of North Oakland in 1905, and remained there until 1908.

Throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first, North Oakland has been guided by a number of visionary leaders who have implemented a wide variety of forward-thinking, community-enriching programs.

Under the leadership of Dr. G.C. Coleman from 1913 until 1942, North Oakland was institution where members of the black community, particularly those returning from World War I, could become active in community service efforts. Dr. Coleman regularly wrote local newspapers to articulate the need for improvement in job prospects and housing for African Americans, and made North Oakland an active force in the community throughout the 1930s. Dr. Coleman was also instrumental in the creation of the organization now known as the St.

John Missionary Baptist Association of Northern California and Nevada. Since 1910, North Oakland has sent numerous messengers and delegates to the association's conventions, where Dr. Coleman served as Moderator for more than 20 years.

Following the passing of Dr. Coleman, Dr. Ansel O. Bell was elected pastor in 1942. During the war years the church membership grew significantly, and under Reverend Bell's tenure that number reached more than one thousand, an increase which necessitated the construction of a new church in 1960.

Reverend Bell was succeeded in 1967 by Reverend C.B. Murray. During his 15-year tenure, Reverend Murray presided over several structural improvements to the church, merged the Senior, Men's and Women's Choirs into one, and started "The Voice of Africa," a North Oakland initiative that resulted in church missions to Haiti and Liberia. He was well known throughout local, State, and national faith organizations, and also served as the First Vice-Moderator of the St. John Missionary Baptist Association of California until his death in 1982.

After the interim pastorate of Reverend Sylvester Rutledge from 1982 until 1984, Dr. Lloyd C. Blue served as North Oakland's pastor from 1984 until 1990. Upon his retirement, Reverend Rutledge again served as interim pastor, and was selected in 1991 as the pastor of North Oakland Missionary Baptist Church, a capacity in which he continues to serve today. Reverend Rutledge came to North Oakland in 1964, under the pastorate of the late Reverend Bell. He served as Associate Sunday School Teacher in the Young Adult Class and also served as a teacher in the Children's Class. Selected as a candidate for deaconship in 1966 and ordained in 1968, Reverend Rutledge has served North Oakland and our community with distinction for over 4 decades.

In recent years, North Oakland has remained at the forefront of community building and improvement efforts throughout the City of Oakland. Most notably, North Oakland recently celebrated the opening of Sylvester Rutledge Manor, a 65-unit affordable apartment complex for low-income seniors that the church developed in partnership with Oakland Community Housing, Inc. This development, completed in July 2003, is located directly adjacent to the church property and is an important step forward in the ongoing struggle to secure affordable housing for all people in our community. Through this effort, the North Oakland Missionary Baptist Church Family is once again letting its light shine on what is often-times a gloomy reality for many, and continues to lift us all up through its unflinching devotion to its members and our community. They have been given a heart of wisdom and knowledge by which their loving kindness and compassion have transcended beyond their walls.

During the month of September 2005, North Oakland Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating its centennial anniversary in Oakland, California. Throughout the last century, North Oakland's members and leaders have worked tirelessly to provide support and guidance for countless individuals. As members and friends from throughout our community and beyond gather for the series of celebrations that will mark this historic occasion, it is my pleasure to add my voice to theirs in thanking North Oakland Missionary Baptist

Church for its years of dedicated service to the 9th Congressional District, to the Bay Area and to our entire country.

HIKING AND CAMPING IN SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND WHITE CLOUD MOUNTAINS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, last month I had the pleasure of hiking and camping in Idaho's rugged Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) and White Cloud Mountains. In part, my trip was a tour of areas that would become wilderness and lands that would be released from wilderness study as part of my bill, H.R. 3603, the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA).

The beauty of the mountains and lakes that I viewed is difficult to describe. From the solitude of Castle Lake to the majestic views from Baker Lake towards Castle and Merriam Peaks, it is difficult not to be in awe of the Boulder-White Clouds.

I would like to thank the United States Forest Service for making this trip possible. In particular, Ed Cannady, Sawtooth National Forest Recreation Manager who did an exceptional job in planning and guiding us on the trip. It was also a pleasure to have the Supervisor of the Sawtooth National Forest, Ruth Monahan, the SNRA Area Ranger, Sara Baldwin, and the Deputy SNRA Deputy Area Ranger, Joe Harper join us on our trip. These folks represent the Forest Service very well.

Finally, I want to thank Debra Peters, SNF Trail Maintenance Foreman and Raina Phillips, SNF Wilderness Ranger for packing us in. Those young women showed a lot of experience in working with pack stock, and it's great to see the Forest Service employs such talented stock hands.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to future trips into the Boulder-White Clouds and will continue to work on CIEDRA so that all Americans can enjoy the area for all forms of recreation.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, for those of us not on the Gulf Coast, it is impossible to comprehend the experience of those whose lives have been upended by the brute force of Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans and much of the Gulf Coast are a disaster area—bodies float in floodwaters that still rise unchecked, power is out, looters steal without fear, and violence is widespread. Our Nation grieves with the residents and survivors and we will stand with them during the long road to recovery.

Hurricane Katrina appears to be headed for the history books as one of the worst national disasters ever to hit the United States. Yet the deeper tragedy is not just how large a toll this storm will eventually take, but how avoidable it all could have been.

The devastation wrought on the Gulf tonight is the result of two terrible disasters. The first was the fury of nature. The other is the unnecessary consequence of this government's inexcusable failure to prepare for the inevitable.

The primary function of a government is to ensure the safety of its citizens. This Congress and this Administration have failed to do so in the most incompetent and willfully negligent way imaginable.

This hurricane was not a surprise. For decades meteorologists, State and local officials, Army engineers, academics, and, yes, FEMA have warned that a Category Four or Five hurricane hitting New Orleans was among the top three most likely major disasters to affect the United States and that we must be prepared. The most recent analysis was conducted just last year, where a computer simulation of the fictional "Hurricane Pam" pounded New Orleans much as Katrina did, pushing the waters of Lake Pontchartrain through the levees flooding the city and stranding 300,000 poor and African-American New Orleanians.

The day before Katrina reached land, FEMA's own director, Michael Brown, raised the possibility of the levees being breached. On August 28th, Brown told CNN that "we knew from experience, based back in the '40s and even in the late 1800s, if a Category Four or Five hurricane were to strike New Orleans just right, the flooding would be devastating. It could be catastrophic." And yet the President said just yesterday that "I don't think anybody anticipated the breach of the levees."

Plans to prepare for this catastrophe had been developed at FEMA as early as the 1990s when President Clinton's FEMA Director, James Lee Witt, laid out a plan for coping with a nightmare scenario in New Orleans that included pre-positioning hospital ships and pumps to handle the catastrophe. Why this was not done is just the beginning of the laundry list of problems with the response to this disaster. Command and control has still not been established. There are FEMA personnel on site and they can do nothing as they await instructions from the bureaucracy in Washington. When will someone take control? The Gulf Coast desperately needs a leader to emerge at FEMA who can direct its operation. Why has this taken so long?

Lurking just below the surface is another set of troubling questions: What if this had been a terrorist attack? Is our emergency response capability so weak that a levee breach, or power outages, or debris can incapacitate an entire region? President Bush has pledged repeatedly since 9/11, now over 4 years ago, that he would keep our country safe. Is this the best this Administration can do? Do our citizens not deserve all the protection and support this government can provide?

The reality is that this country is woefully unprepared to respond to a major domestic disaster in this country because FEMA has been systematically dismantled over the past 5 years by incompetent leaders, anti-government ideology, budget cuts, and bureaucratic red tape.

FEMA's current problems essentially began with the creation of the Department of Home-

land Security, which demoted FEMA from cabinet-level status and reduced it to one of 22 organizations under the umbrella of the Secretary of Homeland Security. Next, its mission was reprioritized and its budget cut, taking the emphasis off of responding to natural disasters while the upper ranks of management were filled by patronage hires, five out of eight having had no emergency preparedness experience. At the same time, FEMA's professional staff was becoming increasingly demoralized. By this week, nine out of ten regional director positions were vacant, as were three out of five disaster response director positions. This brain drain left an agency without the proper leadership, resources, or influence in government to cope with a major catastrophe.

Responsibility, however, does not rest solely with the Bush Administration. This Congress has been a willing co-conspirator in the degradation of FEMA's capabilities.

Since 2001, many Federal disaster mitigation programs have fallen to budgetary pressures. FEMA's Project Impact, a model mitigation program, has been canceled outright. Federal funding of post-disaster mitigation efforts designed to protect people and property from the next disaster has been cut in half, and now communities across the country must compete for pre-disaster mitigation dollars.

In 2003, Congress approved a White House proposal to cut FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in half. Previously, the Federal government was committed to investing 15 percent of the recovery costs of a disaster toward mitigating future problems. Under the Bush formula, only 7.5 percent are given. Experts say that such post-disaster mitigation efforts are the best way to minimize future losses.

In 2004 alone, Congress cut FEMA's budget by \$170 million.

And FEMA is not the only agency to feel the effects of budget cuts. Bush's 2005 budget proposal called for a 13 percent reduction in the Army Corps of Engineers' budget, down to \$4 billion from \$4.6 billion in fiscal 2004 and the New Orleans Corp of Engineers was to lose \$71.2 million out of its budget, the largest cut in its history. This is the very agency responsible for the New Orleans levee system. Assistant Secretary of the Army Michael Parker was even fired for accusing the Bush Administration of failing to adequately fund the Corp of Engineers before Katrina struck.

Natural disasters are a fact of life in this country. Hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes are just some of the eventualities that will inevitably occur and need to be dealt with. Over the past decade, FEMA has responded to more than 500 such disasters with varying degrees of effectiveness. But Katrina has provided its first major test since September 11. The repercussions of the failure of that test are staggering.

Going forward, I believe we need to create a bipartisan, national commission, similar to the 9/11 Commission, to provide an objective look at what went wrong and to make recommendations to repair what is clearly a broken system. Doing so is essential to restoring the confidence of the American people in our government's ability to respond to a crisis on American soil and to keep them safe. The people of the Gulf Coast have demanded answers to their questions and we owe them that.

There is also much more to be said about what this catastrophe has to reveal about the

problems of race and class in America. It is in some way illustrative of this Administration's neglect of the less fortunate that those in the worst situations after this storm are the poorest and most disenfranchised populations—precisely the people this Administration's policies have, at best, callously ignored.

But social justice is a conversation for a later time. For now, we must focus on the immediate task at hand. Our duty is to do everything we can for the victims of this disaster and to rebuild the Gulf Coast. We begin tonight with this modest appropriation of \$10.5 billion. Hundreds of billions more are certain to follow. The money will pay for the finest clean up possible, but, in the end, it will not change the reality that things did not have to happen this way.

CONGRATULATING TOM ENGIBOUS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Tom Engibous, this year's recipient of the American Electronics Association's Medal of Achievement Award.

Since 1959, the Medal of Achievement has been presented annually for significant contributions to the advancement of the high-tech industry and for distinguished service to the community, the industry and humankind. Mr. Engibous is fortunate enough to join the select group of high-tech leaders who have received this honor by becoming the fifty-first recipient of the coveted award.

Tom Engibous is the chairman, president and chief executive officer of Texas Instruments Incorporated. While serving in previous roles at TI, Mr. Engibous helped transform the company from a broad-based conglomerate to a semiconductor company. His strategic focus and ability to quickly execute on the elements needed to reconfigure the company laid the foundation for the TI of today—a semiconductor leader in signal processing technology that has gained widespread recognition among customers, the financial community and the general public.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Tom Engibous for receiving the highest award given by the American Electronics Association. His contributions to the technology industry and service to the community should inspire us all.

TRIBUTE TO SIMEON TERRY, NATIONAL MINORITY BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize today, Simeon O. Terry, Minority Business Enterprise Program Administrator for Austin Commercial L.P. in Dallas, who received the National Minority Business Advocate Award from the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce on September 12, 2005.