

many citizens of the Gulf Coast simply cannot start the process of trying to rebuild their lives, because, without protection against flood and storm surge, they may be unable to obtain affordable flood insurance, mortgages, or other financial arrangements necessary to begin the process of rebuilding.

This fact is especially true for the residents of St. Bernard Parish, which I inspected on foot this past April, and Lower Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana—the communities that bore the initial force of Hurricane Katrina. In Plaquemines Parish, close to one-half of all residents experienced some flooding or structural damage to their homes, and in St. Bernard Parish and the Lower 9th Ward, this number is close to 100 percent of homes.

It is inconceivable that this administration would walk away from communities that experienced such a traumatic devastation, especially after reassuring citizens that the government would help rebuild their communities “better and stronger than before the storm.” We, in Congress, need to stand with one voice in support of rebuilding all of the communities affected by this storm.

The second reason for supporting this motion is that it draws attention to the fact that hurricanes are more than just high wind events, but also carry the threat of massive storm surges. It is these “walls of water” that caused the greatest extent of the damage from Hurricane Katrina.

Those most affected by the hurricane are well aware of the impact of storm surges, and the headaches that have ensued in the aftermath trying to rebuild these communities. I have heard numerous stories of the difficulty in convincing insurance companies that hurricane damage can take the form both of wind damage and flooding damage. Any Member of Congress that has visited this region has heard that insurance companies are balking at settling claims for water damage, arguing that these damages are not covered by storm policies, because they are not wind damage.

However, a storm surge is the direct result of wind-driven water. As Hurricane Katrina moved into the Gulf of Mexico, it pushed water in front of the storm, and caused the sea to rise by as much as 25 feet in areas of coastal Mississippi. But for the hurricane, there would have been no storm surge.

As we move forward with efforts to protect communities along the Gulf Coast, we must be mindful of the impact both from a hurricane's winds, but also of the impact that such massive storms can cause from wind-driven waters. In authorizing new or restored flood protection projects to protect the communities of the Gulf region, the Corps must ensure that projects are designed and constructed to protect against both the dangers of hurricane force winds, but also the threat of massive storm-driven waters resulting from these storms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct, and to renew the Congressional commitment to restore the lives and livelihoods of all residents impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

GROUND BREAKING CELEBRATION  
FOR THE GEORGE P. PITKIN, MD  
EMERGENCY CARE CENTER AT  
HOLY NAME HOSPITAL IN TEA-  
NECK, NEW JERSEY

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the groundbreaking for the new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Holy Name Hospital was founded in 1925 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. To assist the sick and indigent of Bergen County, New Jersey, Dr. George Pitkin and Dr. Frank McCormack worked with Mother General Agatha Brown of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace to purchase a suitable hospital site to provide administrative and nursing care. In 1925, Holy Name Hospital opened with 115 beds.

Today, Dr. George Pitkin's far-reaching vision is realized in an institution known locally, statewide and nationally for health care excellence, dedicated and skilled nursing care, and cutting-edge technological advances. Each year more than 17,000 inpatients, 44,000 Emergency Department patients, and 18,000 outpatients receive state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment, and health management services in cancer care, cardiovascular services, dialysis treatment, women's health care and neurology services.

The new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center at Holy Name Hospital will feature 21,000 square feet of space, 41 patient treatment rooms, patient- and family-friendly facilities, leading-edge trauma procedure rooms, contiguous radiology and laboratory services.

My congratulations and very best wishes to the President and CEO, Michael Maron, and Board of Directors at Holy Name Hospital, and to all of their health care professionals and associates as the outstanding new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center is dedicated.

HONORING GOVERNOR ANN  
RICHARDS

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of loss that I rise today in tribute to Governor Ann Richards of Texas whose death leaves a void in the national scene and in the lives of all of us who knew and admired her.

Governor Richards was a woman of tremendous achievement and her professional accomplishments are well-documented: teacher, state treasurer, governor, chair of a national political convention. She was also a loving mother, a loyal friend, and a strong woman who bravely faced all adversaries, both political and personal. Whether confronting the demons of illness or the disappointment of political defeat, she emerged from each struggle

wiser, wittier, and ever more welcome on the public stage.

For me, and many women in and out of politics, Ann Richards was a role model and a mentor. She showed us by example that a woman could succeed in what appeared to be a man's world. For those of us who share her commitment to education, equal opportunity, social justice and the rule of law, she carved a path for us to follow . . . and left big shoes (and boots) for us to fill.

When I was first running for Congress in 1998, and then during my re-election campaign in 2000, Governor Richards made time in her schedule to come to Madison, Wisconsin on my behalf. Her support was invaluable. In her inimitable Texas twang, she knew how to rally a crowd, work a room, and deliver a message better than any politician, male or female, I've ever seen. To a young woman coming into the national political arena, her wisdom and warmth were a priceless gift for which I will always be grateful.

I shall miss her incredibly and emphatically. Today, I remember Ann Richards in my heart and in these words. But I know she would prefer all of us to remember her in future deeds . . . deeds that push and prod us to be better people and better citizens.

I send heartfelt condolences to Governor Richards' family and sincere thanks for sharing this remarkable woman with us.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSE “PEPE” L.  
GONZALEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose “Pepe” L. Gonzalez who recently passed away on September 8, 2006, at 82 years of age. He will be forever remembered for his passion for higher education for our youth and his commitment to public service.

Mr. Gonzalez was born in the City of Laredo on June 16, 1924 and left the city to serve in World War II with the U.S. Army Air Force in the Aleutian Islands, and later served with the United States Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant in Laredo. He then attended the University of Notre Dame and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1950, followed by a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1964.

Thus began his legacy of providing health care services to the citizens of Laredo by developing the Laredo-Webb County Health Department, often cited for its achievements in disease control, health promotion and chronic disease prevention, and innovative programs in environmental health. He will be forever remembered for his work in promoting environmental health through his collaboration with organizations such as the Pan-American Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association, the Texas Health Advisory Committee, and the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation. The last project he was involved in was the Rio Bravo Foundation, which aims to improve the health of residents along the border region along with the “Nuestra Gente” project which focused on improving living standards for the colonias along the border.