

for bankruptcy. The show was in danger of closing and the future of the theater was in doubt, even to the point of demolition. However, the City Council of Grapevine, along with the overwhelming support of the Grapevine Opry Association members, voted to acquire the property if the anchor tenant, the Grapevine Opry, would continue to operate in the theater. A long-term agreement was forged with the city and Yellow Rose Productions, Inc. to operate the Grapevine Opry and the Grapevine Heritage Foundation was formed to manage the property. Due to the foresight of Yellow Rose Productions, Inc., Grapevine civic leaders and residents, the future of the Palace Theatre was preserved.

In 1999, the Grapevine Opry underwent its most recent renovation and celebrated a grand reopening/homecoming show on June 2, 2001. The show continues to be a mainstay of family entertainment not only in North Texas but across the region and beyond. Many music industry performers attribute their success to experience gained on this landmark stage. Some of the best up-and-coming performers in country music can be found performing each weekend at Grapevine Opry.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Grapevine Opry's on November 10, 2007. This beautiful and historic building, whose preservation is secure, is an important local landmark in Grapevine, Texas and surrounding areas. I sincerely wish the Grapevine Opry many more successful years of continuous family entertainment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for Rollcall vote 948 to H.R. 3648. I would have voted "yes." My vote would not have changed the result, but I want this record to reflect my intention.

ENTERGY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on September 13, 2007 the first hurricane to make landfall in the United States since 2005 hit Southeast Texas. Hurricane Humberto took only 16 hours to form, making it the fastest growing storm on record and leaving area residents and businesses little time to prepare. Entergy Texas, our local electricity provider was ready and quickly took action

Hurricane Humberto left 118,000 without electricity as they waited for the water to recede to begin cleaning up debris left in the storms wake, Thursday morning. While local residents were busy taking care of their family and property Joe Domino, President and CEO of Entergy Texas, and his employees began "turning the lights on" across our area. The utility company, which serves parts of Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas, brought

in around 3,000 employees and additional contractors, to relieve their customers from the smoldering Texas heat that is very much a part of our Septembers. The streets of Jefferson County were bustling with Entergy trucks throughout the weekend as workers effectively traveled from project to project. Though the initial estimates warned that power would not be restored for six days, dedicated employees working into the night and through the weekend were able to restore all 118,000 consumers in just four days.

I would like to commend all Entergy Texas employees for their hard work and dedication during the aftermath of Hurricane Humberto. Companies like Entergy Texas that care about the community they serve make Southeast Texas such a special place.

And that's just the way it is.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO MICHAEL ELLIS DEBAKEY, M.D.

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the National Association for Biomedical Research, NABR and Foundation for Biomedical Research, FBR, are the Nation's oldest and largest organizations dedicated to improving human and veterinary health by promoting public understanding and support for humane and responsible animal research. I would like to submit their following comments for the record on the passing of legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Michael E. DeBakey:

The National Association for Biomedical Research, NABR and Foundation for Biomedical Research, FBR, salute you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives for recognizing Dr. Michael Ellis DeBakey and his unparalleled contributions to cardiovascular medicine. Dr. DeBakey's work has improved the health of millions of American citizens and people around the world. His extraordinary talents as a surgeon, inventor, educator and medical statesman make him a true medical legend.

Dr. DeBakey richly deserves his reputation as one of this country's most innovative and pioneering physicians and the most famous cardiovascular surgeon in the world. A former president of the International Cardiology Foundation referred to him as ". . . the genius . . . the father of open heart surgery." Upon receiving the prestigious Lasker Award, Dr. DeBakey was cited for: "His pioneer contributions in cardiovascular surgery . . . His laboratory investigations, translated with extraordinary courage and unprecedented skill to the patient, have resulted in the correction and cure of previously incurable cardiovascular disease, replacing what would have been lingering chronic disease and disability, or sudden death, by vigorous, happy, and productive life."

Among his many inventions and innovations was the Dacron tube. Using his wife's sewing machine and fabric purchased from a local store in Houston, Dr. DeBakey created the first artificial artery. These Dacron tubes yield-

ed remarkable advancements in vascular surgery. Dr. DeBakey continued to perfect new vascular surgical techniques, which spawned the modern era of the surgical treatment for stroke. His innovative work didn't end there, as he continued to develop new pioneering surgical techniques for the treatment of aneurysms, again leading to new, effective treatments and the saving of thousands of lives.

In 1964, Dr. DeBakey triggered the most explosive era in modern cardiac surgery when he performed the first successful coronary bypass. Two years later, he made medical history again by becoming the first person to successfully use a partial artificial heart (left ventricular bypass pump) to help patients who could not be weaned from a heart-lung machine following open-heart surgery. Later in that decade, Dr. DeBakey again became part of medical history, supervising the first successful multi-organ transplant, in which a heart, both kidneys, and lung were transplanted from a single donor to 4 separate recipients. Also during that decade, Dr. DeBakey pioneered the field of telemedicine with the first demonstration of open-heart surgery to be transmitted overseas by satellite. Medical staff in Geneva, Switzerland were able to watch aortic valve replacement surgery being performed at The Methodist Hospital in Houston.

In 1942, still early in his career, Dr. DeBakey had achieved a national reputation as an authority on vascular disease. Rather than returning to his university employer and working to enhance his career, Dr. DeBakey felt morally bound to serve his country during World War II. He volunteered for military service, joining the Surgeon General's staff and rising to the rank of colonel and Chief of the Surgical Consultants Division. His work, inspecting field hospitals and actively caring for the wounded, led to his proposal for the proper staged management of war wounds. These recommendations made possible the development of mobile army surgical hospitals, or MASH units. Dr. DeBakey's experience during the war also caused him to recommend the creation of specialized medical centers in different areas of the U.S. to treat wounded military personnel returning from war. That recommendation evolved into the establishment of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, VAMC, System.

As a scholar and man of letters, Dr. DeBakey would later initiate the concept and spearhead the movement to establish a national facility for historical medical papers and artifacts. His idea and leadership brought about the establishment of the National Library of Medicine in 1959, housed at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. DeBakey has also made enormous contributions to the city of Houston and what is now known as the Baylor College of Medicine. In 1948, Baylor University College of Medicine was a small, virtually unknown institution recently moved from Dallas to be the cornerstone of the new Texas Medical Center. At the time, it was the only medical school in Houston and lacked most of the facilities and programs essential to a viable medical and teaching institution. Dr. DeBakey reluctantly accepted a faculty position, but once on board, he worked quickly to set the standard that would allow the College to become one of the most respected health science centers in the Nation and the world. In 1969, after working for 2 decades to build the institution into a world-