

## CHICAGO FLOODING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today President Bush was in Texas to see firsthand the devastation from Hurricane Ike. Unfortunately, this is not the first time, nor will it be the last time, that Mother Nature has shown us her worst. My heart goes out to the millions of displaced residents and evacuees who are anxious to return home, who are without power, who must depend on others for food and water and other necessities, and who face the long hard task of rebuilding their homes and communities.

We know a little of what that is like in Illinois. In June, the Midwest was hit by massive flooding, some of the worst we have seen since the Great Flood of 1993. Experts called it a 200 to 500-year event. It left entire communities underwater, broke levees, and washed away roads, bridges, and millions of acres of cropland. The damage could have been worse, if Illinoisans had not worked so long and so hard to fill sandbags, fortify levees, and stand their ground against the rising waters of the Mississippi.

But sometimes weather-related disasters strike with no warning and you don't have time to prepare for the worst. Over the weekend my State was hit by the sixth major flooding event in the last year alone when 3 days of rain dumped more than 100 billion gallons of water on the city of Chicago—two or three times the normal amount. More than 7 inches of rain fell on the Chicago area on Saturday alone, setting a new 1-day record at O'Hare. In the suburbs, some of the worst flooding was along the Des Plaines River, which crested at near-record levels, displaced thousands of residents, and flooded hundreds of homes.

On Monday I had a chance to see for myself the damage in Albany Park, a neighborhood in Chicago that was one of the hardest hit areas. Thirty-ninth Ward Alderman Margaret Laurino accompanied me as I met with residents like Aaron Gadiel, who waded through knee-high water in his fishing boots and searched his home to see if he could salvage clothing for his kids. I want to commend the local and city officials I saw going door to door with pumps, checking to see if residents needed help, and pitching in wherever they were needed. I especially want to thank Terry O'Brien, president of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and Ray Orozco, executive director of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications, OEMC, for taking the time to show me the extent of the flood damage.

The same weather system that dumped billions of gallons of rain on Chicago also caused the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to swell in other parts of Illinois. U.S. Army Corps officials are keeping a close eye on the system of levees and dams that protect these communities to make sure that these residents don't experience a repeat of the June floods.

Today the skies are clearing over Chicago. Water levels are falling, roads are reopening and some folks are returning home. But the recordbreaking rains that evacuated thousands, left four dead, closed roads and flooded homes have left more than a watermark. As Des Plaines Mayor Tony Arredia rightly pointed out, we still have cleaning up to do. I am committed to making sure that Illinoisans do not face this task alone.

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 TRIBUTE TO SECOND LIEUTENANT HOWARD CLIFTON ENOCH, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today because after more than 60 years, a Kentucky family has been reunited with a father and grandfather they never knew. And an American hero is coming home.

Second Lieutenant Howard Clifton Enoch, Jr., U.S. Army Air Forces, was last seen on March 19, 1945, when he took off in his P-51D Mustang single-seat fighter plane for a mission over Germany. He crashed while engaging enemy aircraft near the city of Leipzig.

His remains could not be immediately recovered, and once Soviet forces took over the part of that country that would become East Germany—including the area around Leipzig recovery became impossible for decades.

Howard Enoch III was born 3 months after his father's plane crashed. He grew up in Marion, KY, never knowing his namesake. Now, thanks to the work of some dedicated men and women in the Department of Defense, his father's remains have been identified.

A German researcher originally identified the crash site, and notified our Government. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, the arm of the Department of Defense charged with recovering the remains of our lost heroes, sent a recovery crew to Germany. They used mitochondrial DNA analysis to identify the remains, and in 2007 they contacted Howard Enoch III with the astonishing news.

Howard Enoch III's two young daughters gained new insight into their grandfather. And the discovery brought Howard in touch with a cousin he never knew, who had served alongside Second Lieutenant Enoch in Europe in World War II.

Now Second Lieutenant Enoch will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, alongside America's greatest heroes. And the Enoch family can know that after valiant service to his country, six decades later, a soldier will finally rest in peace. I wish to offer my deepest appreciation to Howard Enoch III for his father's service and his family's sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Earlier this month, the Bluegrass Chapter of Honor Flight paid special tribute to Second Lieutenant Enoch at the World War II Memorial in our Nation's Capital. Honor Flight is a non-profit organization which transports World War II veterans from anywhere in the country to see the memorial, free of charge.

Honor Flight and its volunteers, many of whom are veterans themselves, are doing a great service for our Nation by allowing these veterans to make this important trip. Second Lieutenant Enoch never got a chance to visit the World War II Memorial. But it was built for him, and his thousands of fellow soldiers. So I am glad that 63 years later, Honor Flight has recognized his service.

For a long time, the Enoch family has felt not only the loss of Second Lieutenant Enoch, but also doubt about his final fate. I am pleased for them that that doubt is over. They can take comfort that 2LT Howard Clifton Enoch, Jr. will lie among Arlington's heroes. And they can take pride that this U.S. Senate honors his service and his sacrifice.

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 REPORT ON THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased to share a report with our colleagues, which I received last month from the Departments of the Army and Veterans Affairs. The report addresses the Army's and VA's plans for repairing and preserving the Tomb Monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns. As many of our colleagues may know and appreciate, the Tomb is a national monument of great historical significance, especially to our Nation's veterans, located on the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery.

The Tomb Monument, which sits above the tombs for the unknowns from World War I, World War II, and the Korean conflict, has developed several cracks along the natural faults in the marble. For some time, there has been discussion of possibly replacing the original monument. However, prior to taking this option, I wanted to ensure that at the very least decision-makers considered options for preserving, rather than replacing the monument. While I understand the concerns about the cracks in the Tomb Monument, I along with many others believe that our national monuments are not diminished by signs of their age. Many of our most treasured American symbols, from the Liberty Bell to the Star-Spangled Banner, are physically worn and weathered. This does not diminish their value or significance. I would argue that the same is true for the Tomb of the Unknowns.

It is our Nation's tradition to preserve our historic national symbols. We must protect them from the notion that they can be easily discarded or replaced. With those concerns in mind, my colleague from Virginia, Senator WEBB, and I successfully added language requiring a report on plans for the Tomb Monument to last year's National Defense Authorization Act. The joint report acknowledges that replacement of the Tomb Monument could have a negative impact on the historic significance of the Tomb of the Unknowns.