

Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague and good friend from Florida, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, and almost 20 bipartisan original cosponsors to introduce a very significant piece of legislation, the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2009.

This legislation is largely based on the recommendations presented in a 2007 National Science Foundation, NSF, report, Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative.

The report delivered a stern warning: "Relative to the tremendous damage future hurricanes will inflict, the current federal investment in hurricane science and engineering is entirely insufficient."

The state of science today is not advanced enough to inform us reliably about when or where hurricanes are going to strike or what their precise impact on our communities will be.

Since 2001, hurricane damage has cost our Nation almost \$36 billion in economic losses per year. In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma accounted for over \$160 billion in total damages and the loss of almost 1,500 innocent lives. Further, the impact from inland flooding and tornadoes, which can result from the onset of hurricanes and tropical storms, can be felt throughout the entire United States.

Currently, 50 percent of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of the coastline. As populations and economies continue to expand in these high risk coastline areas, the economic and societal costs will only increase when future hurricanes strike our Nation.

Our Government can ill afford to ignore the advice of its premier scientists and put our populations and infrastructure at risk. We need to nationally invest in new research to better prepare, respond and mitigate these disasters.

This comprehensive hurricane research bill will improve hurricane research dramatically in the United States. The bill authorizes \$2.35 billion in critical hurricane research funding to help scientists study and better understand how hurricanes form and intensify, as well as enhance early warning systems, infrastructure durability standards, and hurricane tracking and prediction capabilities.

The entire Nation would deeply benefit from enhanced, coordinated hurricane research. Better intensity forecasting, long-range projections of hurricane activity, emergency management, and hurricane mitigation would be advantageous to everyone—from improving the ability of local communities to respond to hurricanes to reducing the Federal Government's share in recovery efforts by billions of dollars.

Madam Speaker, our Nation and my State of Florida in particular are all too familiar with the immense damage hurricanes can inflict. It is imperative that we take significant actions to

increase Federal investment in new research to better prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the devastating impacts of hurricanes. Let us resolve to act promptly to address ways to prevent and respond to future hurricanes before the next hurricane strikes.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration. There is no time for further delay.

LESLIE POHLEY HONORED AS FLORIDA'S OUTSTANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Leslie Pohley, a teacher I represent at Largo Middle School, who has been named Florida's Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Pohley was honored by her peers at the Florida Association of Science Teachers. Her principal Fred Ulrich told The St. Petersburg Times, "She is the science teacher every principal would love to have on staff. She cares about her students."

A teacher at Largo Middle School for 30 years, Ms. Pohley grew up in Pinellas County, Florida where she now teaches. She graduated from Clearwater High School in 1973 and holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of South Florida. One degree is in science education and the other in biology.

Previous honors for Ms. Pohley include being named the 2003 Air Force Association Science Teacher of the Year, the 2004 recipient of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Education Award, and being selected for a National Science Foundation fellowship program at the University of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, at a time when the education of our children is a top national priority, especially in the fields of math and science, I salute Leslie Pohley for her lifelong dedication to teaching. Throughout the past 30 years, teaching from the same classroom at Largo Middle School, she has touched the lives of thousands of students and impressed upon them the value and importance of the sciences.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHARING THE DREAM CELEBRATION IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the "Sharing Dr. King's Dream Celebration" in Arlington, Texas, which marks its 20th Anniversary this year.

It is one of the longest Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations in the country, with citywide events taking place over four days starting January 16th

The city's first MLK, Jr., celebration was held back in 1989. The organizing committee included groups from all over the community, including the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, City of Arlington, Arlington Independent School District, Arlington Ministerial Association, Black Citizen's Advisory Council, U.S. Postal Service, Marion Anderson Society, Fort Worth Star Telegram, The University of Texas at Arlington and Tarrant County College—South East campus.

That first event attracted nearly 1,000 participants. Over the years "Sharing the Dream" has continued to grow and it now includes diversity training, sensitivity workshops, banquets, festivals and other multicultural events. This celebration truly embodies what Dr. King's vision was all about and that is a reflection of all communities coming together.

And Arlington's MLK, Jr. Celebration committee continues to expand the event. Each year, in cooperation with the United States Postal Service, they produce an official cachet envelope and a special pictorial cancellation postmark to commemorate the citywide celebration. These special envelopes and postmarks have become favorites of collectors all over the nation.

The theme for this year's cachet envelope and postmark is "20th Anniversary—Sharing the Dream".

The design is always chosen from student submissions to various art or essay contests organized by the Arlington Independent School District. The celebration also recognizes special individuals who have taken the time to make a difference within their respective communities in the areas of Education, Community Service and Government.

This is a unique and very special celebration that each year honors the contribution's of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and on its 20th Anniversary, I am proud to recognize the individuals and organizations that have helped make this event possible over the years and all of the people who have shared Dr. King's dream by attending.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 294 THE VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS PROMOTION ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veteran Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2009. As this body ponders legislation to stimulate the economy and create new jobs, I believe the best economic stimulus we can offer is to empower those who have defended America, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs should play a major role in that effort.

This legislation includes our nation's veterans in our economic recovery by promoting veteran-owned small businesses. Those who have done so much to protect the American economy deserve every opportunity to start and grow a viable business. This bill would renew VA's authority to guarantee small business loans up to \$500,000 for small businesses owned and operated by veterans. VA would be authorized up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees for each fiscal year. The previous