

done on so many occasions, that I am a Member of the House of Representatives.

So it has been a great privilege to work in this chamber and in this Capitol building in the area of my interest, which is public policy. I have been grateful for every day that I have been part of this House. I do not know of any place in the world that I would have preferred to be.

I am pleased that this evening my colleagues, for whom I have the greatest respect and affection, have noted my work, and I thank you all.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the special order just given.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

#### EFFECTS OF HURRICANE GEORGES ON THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTIAN-GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to join my colleagues in adding my commendations, gratitude and well-wishes to the gentleman from Indiana (LEE HAMILTON) and Mrs. Hamilton as he retires from this House.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform the House of the relative good fortune fared by my constituents when the Virgin Islands was hit by Hurricane Georges last Monday. We are sure it is only through prayers and the grace of God that the storm downgraded from a category 4 to a 2 before it passed over our islands, and the eye, which was to have traversed my home Island of St. Croix, shifted and instead passed between the islands. Thus we were spared the widespread devastation suffered by many of our neighboring Caribbean islands.

By all accounts, the Virgin Islands and Virgin Islanders responded well to the challenges presented to us by Hurricane Georges. As of midday last Wednesday morning, less than 48 hours after Georges, life was almost back to normal on the island of St. Thomas. Although we were and still have power outages, the resilient island of St. Croix has held its own. We suffered no deaths directly attributable to the storm and no major injuries on any of our islands.

Despite the fact that over all the islands only suffered mild damage, we must not forget that there are those individuals who suffered significant damage to their homes and businesses. Some hotels and shops suffered minor damages, but most have remained in-

tact and open for business. Crop and fruit farmers suffered total losses, and livestock farmers and fishermen were also severely affected. Many public buildings suffered moderate damage and curtailed services, but our hospitals and health department facilities stood up well and no services were disrupted there.

Mr. Speaker, while I rise tonight to give thanks for our good fortune in the Virgin Islands, I must also ask my colleagues to continue to pray and support the people of the other Caribbean islands, as well as the residents of South Florida and the Gulf Coast, who were not as lucky as we were.

On our sister U.S. island of Puerto Rico, at least three people were directly killed by the storm and damages surpassed nearly \$2 billion. Likewise, in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, over 300 persons have been reported dead and damages have been estimated in excess of \$1 billion.

I look forward to joining our First Lady and my other colleagues tomorrow to view firsthand their damages and early recovery efforts and to bring the prayers, support and good wishes of this House, as well as of their sisters and brothers from my district and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

While we must express our concern and extend aid to the residents of the larger Caribbean islands of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, we must not forget our smaller neighbors to the south, like Antigua and St. Kitts, which also suffered serious devastation from Georges. On Antigua, two persons lost their lives and hundreds of homes lost their roofs. Similarly devastated was St. Kitts, where 3 persons were reported dead and 85 percent of the homes on the island were reported damaged. The residents of these smaller islands also need our help.

Mr. Speaker, I must also thank director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, James Lee Witt, and his entire Washington headquarters and Virgin Islands field office staff for the opportunity to participate in all of the relevant briefings and for their immeasurable assistance in keeping us informed of the status of the storm and the extent of the damage we suffered once the storm had passed.

On this latter point, I want to particularly thank Barbara Russell of FEMA and her team who rode out the storm in the Virgin Islands and provided early information as well as critical help in damage assessment and coordination of the initial response. Special commendations to Colonel Gene Walker, his assistant, Elroy Harrison, the entire VITEMA staff and Emergency Service Coordinating Team for their preparation and response, and to the hundreds of volunteers who gave up their time to help. We especially thank President Clinton for his immediate response to our request for disaster assistance, and he and Mrs. Clinton for their concern, as well as the Members of his cabinet.

One of the most difficult aspects of experiencing a hurricane is not being able to obtain information about an affected area when long distance phone service has been disrupted, as it was in our case. I especially want to thank my Washington office staff for their tireless work in keeping Virgin Islanders and others here on the mainland informed on how their relatives and friends in the islands were faring.

My Washington office was open around the clock from the point when we were certain on Monday the 21st that we were going to be hit and for 72 hours afterward. In addition to fielding telephone calls, we were pleased to be able to inform business people, students, friends and relatives of Virgin Islanders viewing the storm via mainland media through press conferences and interviews on TV and radio, as well as providing the most reliable information through several Internet sources, including our own web site. I also want to thank the many Virgin Islanders who came to my office to assist.

Mr. Speaker, the Virgin Islands is a testament to the effectiveness of mitigation, for without the many improvements made in the wake of the major storms of the last nine years, we would not have been able to bounce back. We still have work to be done and that needs to be addressed.

Today the Virgin Islands are back, businesses are open and we welcome you. Our hotels, our beaches, our tropical breezes and the warm hospitality of our people welcome you back to our shores.

#### TRIBUTE TO BONNIE LOIS KELLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full 60 minutes. I will just take a few minutes here tonight to talk about my mother, Bonnie Lois Kelly. She was born in February 1920, and she died last Wednesday. We had the funeral on Saturday.

She was one of those unique individuals that never gets much attention, but she did a tremendous job in raising three children through a great deal of hardship. She was five feet and one-half inch tall, but, to me and my brother and sister, she was ten times that height.

She married when she was 18 to a brutal person, my father, who was 6-foot-8 and who terrorized her and my brother and sister and I for 12 long years. I can remember during all that time, every time that my father started to mistreat me or my sister or my brother, she would stand between us and take the body blows and stand up for us, no matter what the cost, and many times the cost was almost her life. She finally was able to get away from him when I was 12 years old, after 13 years of married torture.

I can remember many times she would take us to the police department in the middle of the night. Back in those days there was not much sympathy from a lot of the people in blue toward abused wives and children. I can remember one night the police told her that if she did not take the children home at that moment, which was about 1 o'clock in the morning, with her face all bruised, that they would arrest her, which I could not understand.

Anyhow, she finally met a really nice fellow, after she was divorced from my father. Incidentally, my father came in through the floor of the house where we lived on the West side of Indianapolis with a sawed-off shotgun and took her away after breaking down the door, and we did not know whether she was dead or alive for many days, and we spent quite a bit of time at the Marion County Guardian's Home while she was away. But, thankfully, she was able to get away from him and survive.

She finally met a very nice man, Kindeth A. Kelly, who ended up becoming my stepfather on December 23rd, 1950. He and my mother were married for 48 years. He worked in a foundry as a sand hog and later as a foreman of that foundry for a long, long time, I think it was 30-some years, and my mother worked in Ayres Tea Room as a waitress for 18 years.

The thing I recall about her was that she never complained. She would get up every morning and go to work at the tea room, work all day long on her feet, and come home at night and fix dinner for us, and I never heard her complain once. Those were very difficult times.

Looking back on those times, I realize how really wonderful she was. I do not recall that I told her very many times how much I appreciated her, but I did, and I was able to at least convey some of that to her in her last days.

There are so many things that you would like to say about your mother at a time like this, and you just cannot recall all of them. But she was really something special. She instilled in her children a love of nature, a love of art, and a love music and poetry. In fact, she requested that I memorize a lot of poems when things were going very difficult for the family in my formative years. Those poems, that poetry, gave me a lot of strength and courage during some very difficult times that I encountered in my life.

One of the poems that she asked me to commit to memory was one that I would like to just recite for my colleagues who may be paying attention tonight, Mr. Speaker.

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,

When the road you are trudging seems all uphill;

When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.

'Cause life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns;  
And often the goal is nearer than it seems,  
To a faint and faltering man.

Often the loser has given up,  
When he might have captured the victor's cup;

And he learned too late when the night came down,

How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out,

The silver tint on the clouds of doubt;

So stick to the fight,

When you're hardest hit;

It's when things go wrong,

That you mustn't quit.

My mother was not a quitter; my stepfather, who really was my father because he treated us so well, was not a quitter; and I will never forget as long as I live the wonderful things that she did for me and the things she taught me.

#### OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1998

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4112. Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COMBEST (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. FOWLER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and tomorrow on account of family medical emergency.

Mr. GOSS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and on September 29 on account of illness in the family.

Mr. JENKINS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. MARTINEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. VISCLOSKEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CASTLE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BATEMAN, for 5 minutes each day, today and on September 29.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LUCAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. VISCLOSKEY) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. VENTO.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Mr. STOKES.

Mr. EVANS.

Mr. BERMAN.

Mr. FROST.

Mr. ROTHMAN.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

Ms. DELAURO.

Mr. CLAY.

Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. MARTINEZ.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. MARKEY.

Mr. KUCINICH.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado.

Mr. SAXTON.

Mr. DREIER.

Mr. GILMAN in two instances.

Mr. PORTER.

Mr. GEKAS.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

Mr. ENSIGN.

Mr. HUTCHINSON.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2511

An Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to pay employees of the Food Safety and Inspection Service working in establishments subject to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act for overtime and holiday work performed by the employees; to the Committee on Agriculture; in addition to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.