medical care. FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has delivered essential sustenance and supplies. It has supplied and continues to supply generators and thousands of cots and blankets and has deployed over 1,000 personnel to save lives and render medical assistance.

Our action, coupled with the House action tomorrow, will ensure that all necessary funds are immediately available to respond to this ongoing crisis.

The Army, Navy, National Guard, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Air National Guard are hard at work conducting rescue operations and providing aid. Twenty thousand guardsmen are on the ground right now. Thousands more are on the way.

Volunteers from my home State of Tennessee have been on the front lines all week. I think of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, a ministry of 3,000 Southern Baptists. They are working around the clock on rescue missions, at relief stations, cooking thousands of meals and providing emergency care. And they are offering something else, something desperate needed in this time of tragedy: the hope and the love and the compassion of a Nation—of all of us pulling together as one.

As Norma Jones, a 63-year-old volunteer from Indian Mound, told a newsmagazine, "Most of the time, the rescue survivors just want to be hugged."

Hundreds of storm victims have found refuge in Nashville and middle Tennessee. Many are staying with relatives. Others plan to return to what was their home, as we all know, may not be for months.

The ongoing crisis has become a crisis of refugees, a crisis of refugees the likes of which this country has never seen. In Memphis, TN, actually a long way from the gulf, there are 10,000 refugees as we speak, and over the course of tonight they are expecting 4,000 more refugees in that town alone.

On the television, we see families wading in waist-high water in search of food or dry land or clean water. We see those families marooned on those rooftops, as floodwaters swirl past, writing, inscribing with whatever they have available: ‘Need insulin.’ ‘Diabetic.’ ‘Please help’—reaching out for hope, reaching out to be saved.

Our very own colleague and friend, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, lost his family home in this disaster. He returned recently—about 2 days ago—to the home and found nothing. Our deepest sympathies go out to him and his family as they face this difficult time and to so many others in this body and, indeed, all around this country who face these personal challenges.

Towns, cities, communities, and shorelines have been decimated and reduced to rubble, to debris. We have a public health crisis that is just beginning, an ongoing crisis, but one that will increase almost with certainty over the coming days and weeks.

New Orleans, one of America’s most vibrant cities, will take years to recover. Hundreds of helpless people remain trapped on highway overpasses and in the city center with nowhere to go, no food, no water, no sanitation, and security has been tough, as we have all seen over the course of the day.

Most of Mississippi is without power, without electricity. Towns, villages have been totally destroyed.

The darkness of the night will be not just dramatic but, as we heard over the last several hours, haunting underneath those bridges, in rural areas with no lights for blocks, for miles, just human suffering.

Our rescue teams are working hard, and we see that. We are so proud of them, and they deserve our praise—our enormous praise—for their courage, for their boldness, for their dedication. People are still stranded. They are reaching their breaking point, and they need our help now. That is why at 10 o’clock tonight we are acting. That is why we are convening tonight in this urgent session for an emergency supplemental, operating by unanimous consent. FEMA needs additional funds now to continue their relief efforts and to continue their rescue efforts.

Over the course of the last several days, we have had numerous calls with President Bush, and the Democratic leader and I just several hours ago received a call from President Bush requesting these funds. We applaud President Bush. He moved early to get emergency supplies prepared and ready to go. We have been in constant contact. He and his administration have been working tirelessly to meet this daunting challenge.

We all recognize we have much to do. There are a lot of frustrations that have been caused by both of the last several days to do more or things are not going well, and we feel those frustrations. We feel that pain. We feel that suffering. Again, that is why we are here tonight—to support, to deliver, to answer these challenges.

I also thank our State and local leaders for their tremendous dedication and commitment. We, this body, our Federal Government, stand behind them 100 percent. Helping the victims of this hurricane disaster is our highest priority.

Hurricane Katrina and her aftermath is, as we now know, one of the worst catastrophes this country has ever seen. But this is America, and in America we face our toughest challenges together as one, united and lifted up by our compassion and our strength.

Even in our darkest hour, our humanity shines through, millions of citizens, millions of Americans committed to one another, to the care and well-being of all.

Inscribed in this very Chamber just above the Presiding Officer is “E Pluribus Unum,” out of many, one.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.
Immediate Federal response and recovery efforts to date have been extensive. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has deployed more than 50 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams; more than 30 Urban Search and Rescue task forces, eight swift water rescue teams, and two Incident Support Teams to the region. FEMA is also providing water, medical supplies, generators, tents, and tarps and is working to help relocate those displaced by the hurricane.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is moving significant military resources into the Gulf States to aid in rescue and recovery. Eight Navy ships have moved into the area with lifesaving medical equipment. HHS has deployed 415 Public Health Service Officers on standby for deployment to support medical needs in the affected states and CDC officials are working with local officials to identify hospital facilities, distribute medical supplies, and execute a public health plan to control disease and other risks to public health.

The funds that I recommend you request today will ensure that these immediate response and recovery efforts continue uninterrupted. The $10 billion requested for the Department of Homeland Security will enable FEMA to continue ongoing response efforts for the next several weeks. DOD’s immediate crisis response costs include immediate facilities repairs of DOD property, evacuation of DOD personnel debris clean-up, transportation costs, and emergency utility costs.

I anticipate recommending to you an additional request in the coming weeks to provide for a comprehensive response to this hurricane. Reliable estimates can be developed that recognize the extent of this disaster.

This request fulfills known and urgent requirements that cannot reasonably be met under the current [fiscal year] 2005 funding levels. I recommend that you designate the proposal contained in this transmittal as an emergency requirement.

I ask unanimous consent that the complete text of the letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to the President be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The President, The White House.

Submitted for your consideration is a request for fiscal year 2005 supplemental appropriations totaling $10.5 billion to fund immediate emergency response and recovery needs associated with Hurricane Katrina.

Sincerely,

Joshua B. Bolten,
Director
meet immediate needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. And the text of the bill is that it:

Be enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the following sums are appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, namely the Department of Homeland Security:

For an additional amount for "Disaster Relief", $10,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.

And then a provision, provided $500 million to the Department of Defense: . . . for emergency hurricane expenses, to support costs of evacuation, emergency repairs, deployment of personnel, and other costs resulting from immediate relief efforts, to remain available until September 30, 2006. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of that bill, which we are advised will be adopted by the House of Representatives, be printed in the RECORD.

The objection to printing the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

DISASTER RELIEF

For an additional amount for "Disaster Relief", $100,000,000,000 for emergency expenses, to support costs of evacuation, emergency repairs, deployment of personnel, and other costs resulting from immediate relief efforts, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the amount provided herein is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", $500,000,000,000 for emergency expenses, to support costs of evacuation, emergency repairs, deployment of personnel, and other costs resulting from immediate relief efforts, to remain available until September 30, 2006: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds to appropriations for military personnel, operation and maintenance, procurement, family housing, Defense Health Program, and working capital funds: Provided further, That funds transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and periods of time as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: Provided further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not more than 5 days after making such appropriation or any determination, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of any such transfer: Provided further, That the amount provided herein is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005”.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I commend the majority leader, with the concurrence and support of the minority leader, for calling the Senate into session tonight under these emergency conditions, to approve as if passed by the House, and when passed by the House and when transmitted here in the Senate, an emergency supplemental appropriations bill to fund disaster relief efforts.

These efforts are ongoing. We have had all an opportunity to see on television sets and to read newspaper accounts of the work that has been going on the last several days. I had the opportunity to travel to my State of Mississippi yesterday and spent the day touring the ravaged areas along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and then traveled to Jackson, the Capitol of the State, where I was able to meet with Governor Haley Barbour and his disaster assistance team that he had assembled and was supervising in their efforts to make all of the resources available to the State of Mississippi and to help them in the effort to recover from this terrible hurricane.

I have never seen any storm inflict such great damage as I saw yesterday. I was on the Gulf Coast immediately following Hurricane Camille in 1969. I was a practicing lawyer at the time. We were trying to help one of our clients ensure that the employees of their company, Standard Oil Company refineries, were able to present their claims to their insurance companies and otherwise be compensated, as they were entitled to under their policies, for the damages sustained throughout the area where those employees were living and working on the Gulf Coast. That was the worst storm that anybody in my age group had ever heard of, before or since—until Hurricane Katrina.

I can tell you, looking along the coastline, flying in a Mississippi National Guard helicopter, the whole coastline, the whole coastal area of the State has been virtually destroyed. There are a few buildings that are left standing—a few. Those may not be habitable, and the businesses that they house may not be able to continue to function as gas stations, repair shops, or medical supplies. So it is virtually all a total loss for blocks and blocks beyond the beach area.

Everything was quiet. There was nobody moving around; it wasn’t until today that many people could have access to the areas where those houses once stood. It was quiet. It was eerie. It was a horrible sight to behold. I don’t know of anything that has depressed me more than seeing what I saw yesterday in my State of Mississippi.

So I urge the Senate to continue to follow the progress of the disaster assistance effort to be sure that we make available to all Federal agencies and departments the funds they need to do the job to help in the recovery efforts in Mississippi and in Alabama, Louisiana, and in the other States. There have been damages in Florida and Georgia and Texas as well.

The primary use of the funds that we give to the Department of Homeland Security, as requested by the President, will be used to reimburse Federal agencies for providing the relief effort that we have come to appreciate. The Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, Health and Human Services Department, Housing and Urban Development—all are able to share in these funds that will be disbursed to reimburse those departments for participating in the disaster relief effort. So it is not only this one agency but others that will be sustained and assisted as they continue to work in this effort.

The President has appointed this task force as we all know now: Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff is chairing the task force on Hurricane Katrina: Mike Brown, the Director of FEMA, has been on the ground since the very beginning of this effort, coordinating the activities on the ground. Fifty-two counties in Mississippi have been identified as eligible for disaster declarations; thirty-two parishes in Louisiana; six counties in Alabama. The three Governors of those States have requested that the President waive cost-share requirements because of the expense of these expenses for emergency response activities, and the President has granted this waiver.

I ask unanimous consent that a description of the challenges and accomplishments of this disaster relief effort be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS

Over 3,000 people have been rescued by the United States Coast Guard and other operations. The Coast Guard has deployed 57 aircraft and 27 cutters. More than 50 urban search and rescue task forces are operating with 1,800 personnel.

More than 50 National Disaster Medical System teams have deployed to deal with medical needs.

1,700 trucks have been mobilized to supply water, ice, food, medicine, and medical supplies.

450 buses are moving people out of the affected areas in Louisiana.

Over 78,000 people are in shelters across the region.

13.4 million liters of water and 3.4 million pounds of ice have been shipped to the impacted areas.

ELECTRICITY/ENERGY

2.3 million citizens are without power in the Gulf Coast States.

Gasoline and diesel fuel is being routed to emergency personnel and services first. The Department of Energy has authorized the release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The Environmental Protection Agency has temporarily waived size limits for gasoline and diesel fuels to make sure that more fuel is available for emergency services.
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MILITARY

State and local law enforcement and the National Guard are working to restore order throughout the affected areas. 13,000 National Guard are stationed in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida, under control of the Governors. Approximately 6,000 members of the National Guard are stationed in Mississippi.

The total number of National Guard is expected to increase to more than 20,000 by Friday.

The Department of Defense has sent eight Navy ships to the area, including a hospital ship with 100 beds and 800 medical personnel. The Department of Defense has provided over 20 millions ready-to-eat meals.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Army Corps of Engineers is coordinating efforts to repair levees in New Orleans and remove water from the city.

Federal and State departments of transportation are working to repair and reopen highways and interstates.

Interstates 55, 59, 49, and 20 have been reopened in Mississippi. Interstate 10 is open with the exception of traffic for emergency vehicles only.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency in the affected areas.

A network of 40 medical shelters with 10,000 beds is staffed by 4,000 medical personnel.

2,500 beds have been identified in the immediate area, with 40,000 more beds nationwide.

AGRICULTURE

USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service is providing shelters and feeding sites and issuing emergency food stamps and infant formula. Over 80,000 pounds of commodities arrived in New Orleans today.

OTHER

The Internal Revenue Service announced special relief for taxpayers in the disaster areas.

The Small Business Administration will position loan officers in disaster recovery centers to help small business owners.

The American Red Cross is providing a safe haven for nearly 6,000 evacuees in more than 200 shelters across the region.

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, at this point, I ask unanimous consent that the gulf region
requests that would come down from the administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, my particular thoughts go to our colleague from Mississippi, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who has experienced visiting such devastation.

I have some idea of how he feels because less than 4 years ago—a little more than 4 years ago—I experienced the same in New York.

Tonight, our Nation is experiencing one of the most tragic and heart-rending natural disasters in our history. Entire towns have been destroyed, lives upturned, families lost, and the chaos we have all watched unfold continues even tonight.

Our hearts go out to the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia that have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Our prayers go out most of all to those still stranded and to those who have lost loved ones. The images on television are devastating—hungry, weeping children sitting on the street amidst garbage; family members returning to their remains of where their neighborhoods discovering they have lost everything they have ever owned, from precious family keepsakes to their houses, cars, and livelihoods; and angry, frightened people nowhere to turn and nowhere to go in sight.

I join with all Americans and people all over the world in praying for the safe rescue of all the victims of this heartbreaking tragedy.

Four years ago, my city of New York faced a devastating attack, and America stood with us in our time of need. New Yorkers will stand with the people of the gulf region now as they stood with us then.

The love and support New Yorkers received from the rest of the country after 9/11 meant so much in the wake of those attacks and the long, difficult road to recovery. I want the people of New Orleans, Louisiana, Mississippi, and the rest of the gulf to know we will support them, too, no matter how long and difficult their recovery may be. We will do whatever it takes to help now, tomorrow, and into the future.

Our first step comes tonight, when the Senate will agree to provide $10.5 billion in additional disaster relief funding to the devastated region. And we will stand united with President Bush and ready to provide everything and anything that New Orleans and the rest of the gulf region will need to rebuild and recover.

Just as we did in New York, we will face difficulties and a great struggle, but I know I join all of my colleagues in the Senate in pledging assistance—financial and beyond—that the gulf region needs and anything else in our power to help our fellow citizens.

Tonight, our prayers—our fervent prayers—are with them.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today with sadness in my heart, yet