Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with the Rehnquist family and our Nation. As we celebrate the life of Chief Justice William Rehnquist today, we mourn the loss of a true leader who made the most of his unique opportunity to help the American people. He was a skilled judge and a brilliant man who devoted over a third of his life to ensuring that our highest Court fairly upheld our laws.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HURRICANE KATRINA AND THE IMPACT ON LATINOS

Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Hurricane Katrina left hundreds of thousands of people without their livelihood and homes and many more without a sense of hope and esperanza. As shelters across the United States open their arms to evacuees, we must remember all the vulnerable communities which are suffering tremendously in the wake of this natural disaster. Focusing especially in the lives of the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, I would have thought that there would have been some institutional history and expertise at FEMA that would have dictated a more appropriate preparation and immediate lifesaving response. Obviously, I was wrong and lives were lost.

What I have not been wrong about is what my CBC colleagues and I have been telling this body over and over again for a long time, that African Americans are left out and left behind in just about every facet of American life. Now the entire country and the whole world sees it in its most stark and tragic reality.

If nothing else comes out of the devastation we have witnessed over the past week, it should be that we forge the will and determination and the leadership of this Nation to close the gaps; to eliminate the disparities; and, finally, after all of these centuries, ensure fairness, equality, and justice for all and that all Americans be finally embraced into the fullness of the promise that is America.

THE BEST OF HUMAN NATURE

Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, over the Labor Day weekend, I had the opportunity to go to Baton Rouge not as a Member of Congress but as a physician and to work in the River Center where the evacuees, over 5,000, so many of them were there, and to help provide basic health care needs.
What I saw in Louisiana was the best of human nature: a level of confusion, of course, and some disorganization, but people pulling together and trying to do the best they could in a difficult situation.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle at a time like this, probably the greatest tragedy this Nation has ever seen, to pull together, avoid the temptation to get into a finger-pointing, blaming situation, and let us see as a result of this the best of the human nature of this Congress.

FEMA
(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman who went before me: we should see the best of human nature and we should all join together, andHopefully Congress and the administration can do better in the relief and the rebuilding efforts than they did in the prevention and disaster response.

But it is a time to learn and reform because it may only be days or weeks until we have another hurricane in a number of years. Some are afraid that they may have another "perfect storm." Yet, one thing I know from that experience is that you don't sit around and point fingers. You get folks their basic needs after a storm. You get them water, you get them food, you get them shelter, you get them electricity, you get them medical attention, you get them transportation. These things are what we need to be doing right now.

Sure, we can sit around in Louisiana and say, why was the National Guard not ordered, and who is in charge of that? Why were the 4,000 buses in New Orleans not activated? Who is in charge of that? We could say, why was the evacuation of New Orleans only made on Sunday, the day beforehand? We can sit around and do that, but that is not going to help people who rightfully need medical attention, food, and water.

This is the time to pull together as a Nation, as different people from all over the States with different perspectives and different social statuses and different income brackets, to unify into one and help those on the ground who need our help the most.

The United States Congress is doing that. We passed the emergency bill for disaster relief last Friday and we will do it again this week. We are going to continue to pull together to get this recovery going as fast and as orderly as possible.

Pulling Together As A Nation
(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the entire coast of Georgia from Savannah to Brunswick to St. Mary's, Georgia, and during my 16 years in Congress, we have had a number of tropical depressions and hurricanes, and we have had to evacuate and so forth. And we have been hit, but certainly not to the degree that the gulf has been.

Yet, one thing I know from that experience is that you don't sit around and point fingers. You get folks their basic needs after a storm. You get them water, you get them food, you get them shelter, you get them electricity, you get them medical attention, you get them transportation. These things are what we need to be doing right now.

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making in order at any time consideration of house resolution 423, honoring and recognizing the distinguished service, career, and achievements of chief justice william hubbs rehnquist upon his death

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it