First, locals did ask for help before the storm hit and FEMA assumed responsibility for dealing with the fallout from Katrina. Louisiana’s Governor Kathleen Blanco declared a State of emergency for Louisiana on August 28th and on August 27th, she requested Federal support. On that same day, and acting on your authorization, I have responded to Blanco’s request for assistance and declared that FEMA would “mobilize equipment and resources necessary to protect public health and safety by assisting law enforcement with evacuations, establishing shelters, supporting emergency medical needs, meeting immediate lifesaving and life-sustaining human needs and protecting property, in addition to other emergency protective measures.”

Second, the coming disaster was clear. Max Mayfield, the Director of the National Hurricane Center has confirmed that both Director Brown and Secretary Chertoff listened to his agency’s briefing on Katrina’s likely impact. Mayfield made repeated warnings about the hurricane and was quoted by the New Orleans Times-Picayune as saying, “We were briefing them [FEMA and DHS] way before landfall. It’s not like this was a surprise. We had in the advisories that the levee could be topped.” It is alarming that, given this knowledge, FEMA thought it was appropriate to sit back and wait instead of aggressively preparing for the disaster.

Third, the vulnerability of the levees was well established. Last year, FEMA conducted a simulation involving the potential evacuation of New Orleans as a result of a Hurricane. For my years, experts had been predicting that the levees could be breached by a hurricane and that the results would be disastrous, costing thousands of lives and billions of dollars. In 2001, the Army Corps of Engineers conducted a study and found that the levees in the region needed to be updated, raised, and the pumping systems modernized. In the event of a category 4 or 5 hurricane, like Hurricane Katrina, the levees would fail and the cities within the levees would be at risk of flooding.

Perhaps most troubling, Federal officials knew from news reports and from Mayor Ray Nagin’s warnings that tens of thousands of New Orleans residents would not be able to respond to the call to evacuate. Despite this understanding, no action was taken to accommodate those who could not evacuate their city.

I am deeply troubled by what this failure of leadership could portend for another disaster or attack. Some of FEMA’s top positions have been staffed with individuals who have ample political and campaign experience, but virtually no understanding of how to prepare for and respond to a disaster of any magnitude. We expect State and local responders to be well-trained and qualified. The same must be true of FEMA’s leaders. There is no doubt that a new and better skilled leadership team at FEMA is required in order to best protect our Nation.

The tragic events caused by Hurricane Katrina have left hundreds of thousands of Americans with shattered homes and families and without food and water. I am committed to joining together to provide relief and to save as many lives as possible.

I have seen the compassion of Americans as volunteers, donations and financial assistance has flowed into the southeast region. We must now do our part to repair the damaged region and assist in rebuilding the lives of many of our citizens. I look forward to working with the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to help the people in this devastated region.

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH OF OHIO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Congressman Barney Frank, as he is honored by the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats for his significant service on behalf of the citizens of the 4th Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Since being elected to the United States Congress in 1981, Congressman Frank has blazed a courageous road fortified by civil rights and human rights for every American, regardless of their differences. His candor, compassion and convictions have consistently given a voice to the oppressed and vulnerable of our society and his work continues to raise the level of grace and dignity for all Americans by casting the pall of ignorance and discrimination into the light of truth and justice.

A highly regarded and respected attorney, activist and public servant, Congressman Frank’s constituency in Massachusetts has demonstrated their overwhelming faith and admiration for him by voting him back in office twelve times. He is the Senior Democrat on the Financial Services Committee and has worked tirelessly on behalf of vital issues that affect the well being of our society, including gay rights, health care, education, preservation of the arts and the steadfast protection of our civil liberties.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of my friend and colleague, Congressman Barney Frank, for his immeasurable service and collective leadership on behalf of the citizens of our country.

Congressman Frank’s steadfast advocacy and unwavering focus on human rights is framed by excellence, heart, integrity and personal wisdom. Congressman Frank continues to raise our society into the light of tolerance and truth, thereby elevating the lives of countless Americans into the realm of hope for a better tomorrow, and peace and justice for all, in the 4th District of Massachusetts and across our Nation.

### CELEBRATING JOHN D. LEE

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR. OF TENNESSEE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, John D. Lee, the President of the Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley, will be honored for 35 years of service. He is only the second President in the organization’s 60-year history.

John went to work for the Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley as a Facility Director on September 16, 1970. He was later promoted to Assistant Executive Director and then to President and CEO.
The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley has experienced amazing growth under his leadership. When John became President 26 years ago, it was operating only two Boys Clubs. Since then, he has led the organization through a merger with the Girls Club in 1990 and has overseen an expansion that now provides activities for 7,845 members annually in 19 Club facilities in five East Tennessee counties (Knox, Blount, Scott, Loudon, and Fentress). The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley employees a staff of 275 people and provides over 400,000 hot meals annually.

John’s excellent leadership and service has not gone unnoticed either. In 1985, he received the Robert M. Sykes Award for Professional Excellence. In 1994, the U.S. Department of Justice presented him with the Directors Community Leadership Award.

The parent organization of the Boys & Girls Club is also very appreciative of John’s work. On May 23, 2000, he received the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Service to Youth Award and Service Bar for 30 years of service to the Boys & Girls Club Movement, and in 2002, he received the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Professional Service Award for Service to the National Movement.

John was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and is a graduate of Samford University. He has been a fine husband to his wife, Phyllis, and a great father to his three children, Amanda, Maria and Phillip.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley is a leader in youth development and has touched the lives of countless young people throughout John’s tenure. I have come to know John Lee well over the years, and I can assure you that he is a fine human being who has made East Tennessee a much better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, this great Nation owes a debt of gratitude to John D. Lee for his outstanding service as President of the Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley.

IN HONOR OF CHORBISHOP BERNARD C. KHACHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Chorbishop Bernard C. Khachan, upon the retirement that highlights 45 years in faithful service to others. Though he will be greatly missed, his gifts of faith, leadership, guidance and compassion will forever illuminate hope and faith within St. Maron parish community of Cleveland. We wish him an abundance of health, happiness and peace as his journey guides him back to Lebanon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SYSTEMS AND ELECTRONICS, INC.

HON. JO ANN EMERSON OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Systems & Electronics, Inc. (SEI) Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) Paint Optimization Team as the recipients of the 2005 Missouri Team of the Year Award (MOTA). SEI's West Plains, Missouri unit is a leader in defense systems and technology. The FMTV Paint Optimization Team is based at SEI's manufacturing facility in my Congressional District, and this team was instrumental in the development of protective armor placed on vehicles for the protection of Army personnel in Iraq.

The MOTA is awarded annually to teams which address and meet six standards: selecting the opportunity for a team, establishing and developing the team, measuring and analyzing the current situation, developing improvements, implementing improvements, and monitoring progress. The FMTV Paint Optimization Team successfully met each standard set forth and excelled in their production of protective armor.

The MOTA Recipient Awards Banquet and Presentation will occur at the Excellence in Missouri Conference in November, at which time the team will be officially recognized for their excellence in teamwork. Again, I send my warmest congratulations to SEI and the FMTV Paint Optimization Team, and I wish them continued success as they work to provide proven armor solutions to our men and women in uniform, both at home and abroad.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ELSIE FRANK

HON. ERIC CANTOR OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kristin Young. After more than a decade of service to the House of Representatives, she is moving home to Connecticut. She spent the last four and a half years working in my office, currently serving as my Director of Administration.

I am very appreciative of all of Kristin’s hard work over the years. I have been fortunate to have one of the most talented, committed and effective staffers on Capitol Hill handling my schedule and greeting constituents with a smile each working day.

Kristin’s strong work ethic was invaluable in making sure I was able to get people’s work done and meet and greet as many constituents as possible. Kristin’s demonstrated ability...