

and sounds of standing in that rubble. I remember workers in hardhats yelling at me, "Whatever it takes." I remember doing my best to console those who had come out of the rubble, and a guy looked me right in the eye, and he said, "Don't let me down." I've waken up every morning since that day thinking about how best to protect America. I will never relent in defending the security of this country, whatever it takes.

Four years ago, as I traveled your great State asking for the vote, I said if you—I made a pledge that if you gave me a chance to serve our great country, I would uphold the honor and the dignity of the office to which I had been elected. With your help and with your hard work, I will do so for 4 more years.

God bless. Thanks for coming. Thank you all. Thank you, firefighters.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:39 p.m. at Voice of America Park. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Zell Miller of Georgia, who made the keynote address at the 2004 Republican National Convention; Lt. Gov. Jennette Bradley and Auditor of State Betty Montgomery of Ohio; Ohio State Treasurer Joseph T. Deters, write-in candidate for county prosecutor, Hamilton County, OH; pro football Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz; entertainer Darryl Worley; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting
Supplemental Budget Requests To Support Comprehensive Response and
Recovery Efforts After Hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne
September 27, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On September 8th, I signed into law Public Law 108-303, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, which provided \$2 billion in supplemental funds for hurricane-related disaster relief. On September 14th, I submitted a supplemental request totaling \$3.1 billion to continue immediate assistance to address the impact of Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

Due to Hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne and other hurricane-related needs, I am requesting additional emergency funds from the Congress. I now ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests, totaling over \$7.1 billion, for additional emergency FY 2004 supplemental resources for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, the Interior, Justice, Transportation, and Veterans Af-

fairs; as well as the Corps of Engineers, International Assistance Programs, and the Small Business Administration.

I hereby designate these specific proposals in the amounts requested herein as emergency requirements. These additional requests will support response and recovery effort to address the critical needs associated with the effects of Hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne and other storms in southern and eastern States and other affected areas. In addition to this enacted and requested emergency funding, Federal agencies will continue to use existing resources and programs for response and recovery efforts from all recent hurricanes and storms.

I urge the Congress to limit this emergency funding to those items directly related to the recovery efforts from the impact of these recent major disasters and

to act expeditiously on this and my September 14th emergency supplemental request.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks Following an Inspection of Hurricane Damage in Lake Wales, Florida

September 29, 2004

I want to thank the McKenna boys for showing us around here, giving us a chance to see the devastation that took place here from not just one hurricane but three hurricanes. I want to thank my brother Jeb for his hospitality and his leadership. I want to thank Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, for being down here. I want to thank Charlie Bronson, secretary of agriculture. I want to thank Adam Putnam, Congressman from this part of the world. Every time I see Adam, all he does is talk about oranges. His hair is kind of orange.

I understand a lot of people in this area, like Marty and Pat, were hit hard by Jeanne and Charley and Frances. These are storms that have taken lives, storms that have created severe flooding, storms that caused major power outages, and storms that damaged farms and homes and hospitals and roads. It's been a devastating period for the State of Florida. It is the first time in nearly 120 years that four hurricanes have hit the same State in a single season. People of Florida have met historic challenges with extraordinary strength and generosity.

State emergency response teams have saved lives by evacuating people before the storm and responding swiftly after the storm arrived. Power crews and telephone workers are putting in long hours to restore services. Despite week after week of strain, faith-based groups like Southern Baptists and the Salvation Army are setting up

kitchens to feed the hungry. The Red Cross is running shelters and providing medical services for the injured. The National Guard is distributing supplies and conducting safety patrols. Across the State, people are showing great compassion and helping their neighbors make it through these storms, and I thank them for their care and their decency.

The Federal Government is continuing our active role in the recovery efforts. We're working closely with Governors like Jeb and with other State and local officials to make sure resources reach the people who need it. I've asked Congress to provide \$12.2 billion to respond to Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne. My request provides resources to repair bridges and highways and hospitals. It includes funding for the Small Business Administration to make loans to homeowners and small businesses. It includes more than \$8 billion for FEMA, the largest amount ever provided in response to a natural disaster. FEMA has responded rapidly to all four storms, and they continue working to make disaster assistance available to people in need.

I want to thank Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and FEMA Director Mike Brown for their tremendous work these past few weeks. They, and those who work for FEMA, have the gratitude of the administration and the people of this country.