

the people who have been hurt by this storm know that—need to know that the Government is going to be with you for the long haul.

In all the steps we take, our goal is not to simply provide benefits but to make them easy and simple as possible to collect. The responsibility of caring for hundreds of thousands of citizens who no longer have homes is going to place many demands on our Nation. We have many difficult days ahead, especially as we recover those who did not survive the storm. I've instructed all agencies to honor their memory by treating the dead with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Throughout our history, in times of testing, Americans have come together in prayer to heal and ask for strength for the tasks

ahead. So I've declared Friday, September the 16th, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance. I ask that we pray, as Americans have always prayed in times of trial, with confidence in His purpose, with hope for a brighter future, and with the humility to ask God to keep us strong so that we can better serve our brothers and sisters in need.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. The National Day of Prayer and Remembrance proclamation of September 8 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on Congressional Action on Emergency Funding for Hurricane Katrina Recovery Efforts *September 8, 2005*

I thank Congress for continuing to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina by moving swiftly and in strong bipartisan fashion to approve these additional emergency funds. The people affected by this storm have immediate needs that we must

continue to meet without delay. More resources will be needed as we work to help people get back on their feet. We will continue to help people rebuild their lives and rebuild the region.

Message to the Congress on the National Emergency Caused by Hurricane Katrina *September 8, 2005*

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority under section 6 of the Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. 276a-5, to suspend the provisions of sections 276a to 276a-5 of the Davis-Bacon Act in the event of a national emergency. I have found that

the conditions caused by Hurricane Katrina constitute a "national emergency" within the meaning of section 6. I have, therefore, suspended the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act in designated areas in the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi.