

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 405

Recognizing the recent natural disaster in Venezuela, commending the people and Government of Venezuela for its disaster recovery efforts, and calling on the United States Government and the international community to consider providing additional disaster assistance.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. GILLMOR, and Mr. GEJDENSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the recent natural disaster in Venezuela, commending the people and Government of Venezuela for its disaster recovery efforts, and calling on the United States Government and the international community to consider providing additional disaster assistance.

Whereas on December 16, 1999, the Government of Venezuela declared a state of emergency for 7 states after 2 weeks of unrelenting rain led to flash flooding in northern Venezuela;

Whereas the December floods, determined to be the worse natural disaster to hit Venezuela in the century, left an

estimated 30,000 dead and an estimated 500,000 persons affected or displaced;

Whereas the disaster resulted in the damage to or the destruction of many roads, bridges, and other elements of Venezuela's infrastructure and the damage or destruction of over 100,000 homes and businesses;

Whereas the flooding has affected over 35,000 hectares of farmland and destroyed an estimated 60 percent of the agriculture harvest for this year;

Whereas the flooding left thousands of Venezuelans homeless and without essential food, water, shelter, and medical supplies;

Whereas on December 16, 1999, the United States Ambassador to Venezuela declared a disaster for flooding, thus releasing immediate financial and material assistance from the United States;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, and the Department of Defense have actively provided support to the Government of Venezuela in the search, rescue, and recovery efforts thus far;

Whereas the United States Government has provided approximately \$3.75 million in emergency disaster assistance and an additional \$20 million in Department of Defense assistance;

Whereas the international community, as reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, has contributed approximately \$10 million for emergency relief;

Whereas the United States should continue to play a leading role in responding to international disasters and to encourage others to contribute to the recovery effort; and

Whereas Venezuela is an important neighbor, friend, and ally in the Hemisphere and is in need of help: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes the significant death and de-  
3       struction in parts of northern Venezuela as a result  
4       of the devastating floods of December 1999 and ex-  
5       presses its deepest sympathy to the people of Ven-  
6       ezuela who have suffered as a result of these floods;

7               (2) commends the Government of Venezuela for  
8       its determined and quick response to the disaster  
9       and its rescue and relief efforts as well as the people  
10      of Venezuela for coming together in this time of na-  
11      tional emergency and need to help in the rescue and  
12      relief efforts of their fellow citizens;

13              (3) commends the United States Ambassador to  
14      Venezuela, the Agency for International Develop-  
15      ment, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, and  
16      the Department of Defense for their swift reaction  
17      to the disaster and the timely assistance thus far  
18      provided to the people and Government of Venezuela  
19      for rescue and relief operations; and

1           (4) pledges the continued support of the United  
2       States and urges the administration to seek addi-  
3       tional emergency relief funds, if appropriate, to con-  
4       tinue to assist the people of Venezuela to recover  
5       from this disaster and urges the Administrator of  
6       the Agency for International Development to encour-  
7       age other international donors to continue to con-  
8       tribute to the relief efforts in Venezuela.

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