

which commends United States Veterans for their heroism in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. The resolution also reaffirms our bonds of friendship with our Allies we stood together with during that noble cause.

I commend the bill's sponsor, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and the Chairman and Ranking Members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. STUMP and Mr. EVANS for their support. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

I would like to take this time to pay tribute in particular to two of the 600,000 American troops who served in the German Ardennes offensive, known as the Battle of the Bulge. These two heroes who risked their lives to defend our freedom come from my home state of Connecticut.

One is Bob Dwyer of Vernon, Connecticut. After serving his country in World War II, he now continues to serve his nation in peacetime by working for the Veterans' Coalition in Connecticut. Mr. Dwyer plays a central role in this group which provides crucial services and assistance for veterans and advocates on their behalf.

Another hero is Gerald Twomey of Norwich, Connecticut. Mr. Twomey served in a World War II reconnaissance unit that had already fought in North Africa, Sicily, and Normandy before he made his way to this momentous battle. In an interview with Bob Hamilton of the New London Day last year, Mr. Twomey described his service in Africa and Italy as difficult but nothing like the organized resistance he and his comrades met in Ardennes. "That was brutal," said Twomey. "It was very, very cold weather, a lot of snow. It was tough. They kept bringing over replacements, and they were knocking them off as fast as they could bring them over . . . It was much worse than North Africa, much worse."

Anyone who has studied the accounts of this battle is struck by the resilience and courage of our troops at the Battle of the Bulge. Their bravery withstood Hitler's last ditch offensive to prevent the Allies from closing in on Berlin. A passage from the book *Citizen Soldiers* by Stephen Ambrose serves as a testament to the courage of American fighting men in recovering from a withering German attack and summoning the strength to respond:

From the Supreme Commander down to the lowliest private, men pulled up their socks and went forth to do their duty. It simplifies, but not much, to say that here, there, everywhere, from top to bottom, the men of the U.S. Army in northwest Europe shook themselves and made this a defining moment in their own lives, and the history of the Army. They didn't like retreating, they didn't like getting kicked around, and as individuals, squads, and companies as well as at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, they decided they were going to make the enemy pay.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing more to add except to once again thank these American heroes on behalf of my constituents in Connecticut and citizens across this nation.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the courageous Americans who fought during World War II, especially those who fought at the Battle of the Bulge.

The Battle of the Bulge, as you and my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, was a major German offensive in the Ardennes forest region of Belgium and Luxembourg that was fought from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945.

Over 600,000 American troops participated in the Battle of the Bulge, sustaining 81,000 casualties.

I am proud of my many family members and constituents who served this country in the last world war. In so doing, I especially think about my cousin John Henry Woodson, Jr., who not only fought in World War II but was actually left for dead behind enemy lines. He was reported as missing in action for almost three weeks, before he found his way back to the American troops. Although he was fortunate to be among those who returned home, that terrible experience and others during the war left an indelible memory and mark on the rest of his life.

John served the Virgin Islands Community exceptionally for many years, first at the Department of Health and later as a public school science teacher and principal. He is remembered by the Virgin Islands through the Junior High School, on St. Croix, which bears his name.

Today, as we remember those veterans who fought at the Battle of the Bulge for their service and sacrifice, I lovingly remember my cousin Johnny, and the other Virgin Islanders who also served there.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois, the ranking member of the committee, for all of his assistance on this bill, as well as the gentleman from New Jersey who brought the bill to us in the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 65, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE FLOYD

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 322) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in sympathy for the victims of Hurricane Floyd, which struck numerous communities along the East Coast between September 14 and 17, 1999.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 322

Whereas on September 16, 1999, Hurricane Floyd deposited up to 18 inches of rain on sections of North Carolina only days after the damaging rains of Hurricane Dennis;

Whereas Hurricane Floyd continued up the eastern seaboard, causing flooding and tornadoes in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut;

Whereas Hurricane Floyd is responsible for 66 known deaths, including 48 confirmed dead in North Carolina alone, as well as 3 in New Jersey, 2 in New York, 6 in Pennsylvania, 4 in Virginia, 2 in Delaware, and 1 in Vermont;

Whereas hundreds of roads along the eastern seaboard remain closed as a result of damage caused by Hurricane Floyd;

Whereas waters contaminated by millions of gallons of bacteria, raw sewage, and animal waste have flowed into homes, businesses, and drinking water supplies due to septic, pipeline, and water treatment system damage caused by the flooding associated with Hurricane Floyd, a situation that poses considerable health risks for individuals and families in affected States;

Whereas areas in 10 States were declared Federal disaster areas as a result of Hurricane Floyd—Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia;

Whereas individuals registering for Federal assistance in States hit by Hurricane Floyd totalled 68,440 as of September 26, 1999, with 39,265 in North Carolina, 11,121 in New Jersey, 4,582 in New York, 3,222 in South Carolina, 3,153 in Virginia, 371 in Delaware, 6,479 in Pennsylvania, 173 in Connecticut, and 74 in Maryland;

Whereas thousands of individuals and families have been displaced from their homes and are now taking refuge in temporary housing or shelters;

Whereas over \$2 million in temporary housing grants have been issued in New York and New Jersey and the residential loss estimates are over \$80 million in North Carolina alone; and

Whereas the nature of this disaster deserves the immediate attention and support of the Federal Government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to everyone who suffered as a result of Hurricane Floyd; and

(2) pledges its support to continue to work on their behalf to restore normalcy to their lives and to renew their spirits by helping them recover, rebuild, and reconstruct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In communities up and down the East Coast, including many in my own congressional district, Hurricane Floyd left a path of unprecedented destruction, hardship, and tragedy. It has been more than 3 weeks since the storm hit, and still thousands of families are unable to return to their homes. In communities throughout our area, downtowns have become ghost towns.

Several of the towns I represent have suffered through floods before, but past storms were nothing in comparison to what happened on the evening of September 16. In the small community of Bound Brook, New Jersey, flood waters as high as 12 feet turned the downtown

business area and surrounding neighborhoods into a raging sea of water. Residents had to be rescued by boats from trees as well as rooftops. Tragically, two people were unable to escape and died. In the neighboring community of Manville, the town literally became an island. The only way to get outside assistance into the flood-ravaged community was by helicopter.

In the days following the flooding, I toured the hardest hit communities and talked to the homeowners and businesses who had lost their life savings in a sudden surge of floodwater. We all need, Mr. Speaker, to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Red Cross, the rescue squads, the police departments, the fire departments, the National Guard, and the tens of thousands who volunteered their time to come to the aid of their neighbors in need.

In the midst of all the destruction, the flood victims found comfort in the compassion and generosity of strangers who held their hands, gave them a blanket or dry clothes to wear, cooked them a hot meal and gave them a roof over their heads. The road to recovery will be a long one for many of the flood's victims. Some may never be able to return to their homes. Others will have to wait for months before extensive repairs are made.

Today, we in Congress can do more than just express our deepest sympathies to the victims of Hurricane Floyd. We can pledge to do everything in our power to help them get back on their feet, rebuild and recover from their losses and restore their faith in the future.

Later this week, I will be joining with colleagues from across the East Coast in calling for the expansion of the current disaster aid program to address one significant unmet need. Our legislation would extend disaster aid grants to small businesses as well as to homeowners. Without this modest level of assistance, the heart of our communities, our small businesses, may never reopen.

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We cannot allow Floyd or any other natural disaster to decimate a vitally important part of the United States, our small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues will join us in supporting this effort to help businesses, families, and communities fully recover from the devastation of Hurricane Floyd.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding this time to me, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) for cosponsoring this and providing the leadership for this particular bill.

Mr. Speaker, approximately 52,000 North Carolina citizens have called the

FEMA telephone in-take line seeking assistance as a result of Hurricane Floyd. At the peak of the disaster more than 48,000 squeezed in make-shift shelters. Some 3 weeks after Hurricane Floyd struck, hundreds in North Carolina remained in temporary shelters. Emergency housing is needed. Home repair and replacement is a priority. Essential property has been lost. Many are out of jobs. Despair and hopelessness is setting in.

Imagine, if you will, Mr. Speaker, doing without the necessities all of us take for granted. Imagine fighting for a cot to sleep on in a strange shelter at night. Imagine waking in the morning without lights or running water, standing in line for food, clothing and drinking water. Imagine being lost in a tunnel with no end in sight. More than anything, the victims of Hurricane Floyd now need hope.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, life as you have known it being swept away by rapid and rushing waters, unprecedented, unanticipated, and unforgiving. When Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina, towns became rivers, and rivers became towns. Infrastructures built over lifetimes was destroyed. Losses that currently reach into the millions of dollars have been documented, and the numbers are growing.

More than 650 roads were impassable due to the flooding, and at least 10 bridges are severely damaged, and many more are structurally damaged. At the height of the flooding, Interstate 95, the roadway to Disneyland, was shut down. At least 600 pipelines were damaged. Electricity losses are nearly \$100 million and growing. Millions in revenue has been lost. 1.2 million persons lost power due to the storm. Drinking water and wastewater treatment systems sustained untold damage. Bacteria, nitrates and other pollutants have contaminated many wells. Septic tanks are nonfunctional and due to the high water table will not be functional for some time.

Agricultural losses compounding previous losses from the drought and economic downturns and other natural calamities have reached close to \$1.5 billion, and the number is growing. Small-farm life is seriously threatened in North Carolina. We have millions of dollars in forestry losses, unknown losses to homes of thousands, unknown losses of jobs because thousands of businesses were flooded, many ruined, and thousands have lost income entirely.

Thirty-one North Carolina counties were declared disasters in the wake of Hurricane Floyd. Fourteen of my 20 counties suffered severe flooding. Small towns, unincorporated municipalities, medium-sized cities like Pinebluffs, Trenton, Dodge Place, Kinston, Tarboro, Rocky Mount, Wilson, Greenville were substantially flooded. In Princeville, a town founded at the end of the Civil War by newly freed slaves, every business, every church, nearly every home and school has been de-

stroyed. Mr. Speaker, the entire town has been destroyed. Fish and shellfish losses are countless; and if things could not be worse, there are millions of gallons of raw sewage and animal wastes. Contaminated waters have flowed into our water system. Disease-carrying insects, bugs, and rodent activity is on the rise.

Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Floyd left in its wake the worst flooding in the history of the State of North Carolina. Yet despite all the misery, there are bright spots. Many of the schools that were closed, opened yesterday. Thousands of students who had not been in school since September 15 were able to return. Help has come from thousands, and I recognized some of them during my last night's special order.

The sun is rising, the rivers are cresting, and the water is receding. The devastation of Hurricane Floyd will one day become history. It will become a mere memory in the minds of those who are suffering now through it. Possessions will once again be collected. North Carolina will rebuild, restore, and recover; but it is imperative that more help is provided by our Federal Government.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, offers hope, and for that help I urge its adoption.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for bringing this resolution to the floor, thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her commitment and energy in providing much needed help, and to all our delegation and Members up and down the East Coast who are affected, I am here today to speak on behalf of the many victims of Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina and also tornado victims in Stanley and Anson County who are looking to us for help.

As a member of the North Carolina delegation, I am going to work hard to make sure their needs are met, but I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that one way we can assist the many people who are in distress in North Carolina is to not use the Federal Government to wipe out their local economy.

Mr. Speaker, the President went to eastern North Carolina recently and told farmers that he feels their pain, and he pledged his support in the wake of this disaster. However, as soon as he returned to Washington, we learned that he had instructed the Justice Department to do its best to wipe them all out with a Federal lawsuit. Mr. Speaker, the ultimate loser in this process will be the tobacco farmers, their families, workers and manufacturing facilities and others who work long, hard days to put food on the table and provide for their families. The fact that the administration has chosen to launch this action in the wake of a devastating natural disaster might be comical were it not so tragic.

Mr. Speaker, members of the North Carolina delegation and I have sent a letter and personally contacted the President asking him to reconsider his plan and drop this lawsuit against the very people we are here to express sympathy for today. I hope other Members of this body will join us in this effort to not penalize victims with an additional Federal lawsuit.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the honorable gentleman from Ohio for yielding me this time; and, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union must provide for the general welfare of the people, the people in the Carolinas who have been devastated. I recognize the pain of the people who live there, who are affected by it on television. I saw where the waters had washed up the graves, and caskets were floating down the rivers, and saw where the hogs were on top of roofs trying to preserve what little life there was among the cattle.

America is busy doing things around the world. America needs to focus her attention on North Carolina and swiftly and surely, that the people in the Carolinas who have been affected so in such a devastating way by Hurricane Floyd get the kind of help and relief that they need expeditiously. I am willing to help; I know that most Members of Congress are willing to help. They need shelter, and I think that the apparatus we have in place like FEMA and all of these other disaster agencies that are in existence at this time in this country need to focus its full attention on North Carolina and ensure that relief is posthaste on behalf of those American citizens that we are here to represent.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK).

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding me time; and, being from North Carolina, I of course am very much aware of the need there, but I think everybody in this country has seen the horrible devastation that has taken place.

As my colleagues know, we have so far done a good job relative to the disaster-relief part of this effort. The Federal Government has stepped in; FEMA, they have done a good job; the State government has done a magnificent job in meeting the immediate needs of the people. But now we move into a separate phase in this recovery effort.

Recovery is different than the immediate relief because we are talking long term. People have got to have a place to live. They need their homes rebuilt. They need their jobs again. And all of this is going to take place with the help of a lot of people across America

because Government will do their job; we in the North Carolina delegation will see that everything possible is done from the government side. But then we have also got to have the help of all the people in this country who are willing not only to step up with dollars, but to step up with volunteer time. Who will come into North Carolina and help these people have some hope again, have a home in which to live?

I mean, think about it. One may have a home that has been destroyed in this flood, and then it has to be condemned because of the hog waste and the human waste and the gasoline and everything else. So, one had a mortgage on that home, they had no insurance because maybe they lived in the 500-year flood plain. They did not think they needed insurance. And all of a sudden here they are, no home, no insurance, a mortgage to pay, nowhere to go, maybe no job.

So I implore all the people across America, please come help us as a volunteer in North Carolina to give these people hope and to rebuild.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN).

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding this time to me. I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) for his leadership on this issue, and I urge all my colleagues to support House Resolution 322.

Over the past several weeks the people of northern New Jersey have learned what many victims of disaster have already learned, that rebuilding lives can be a long and painful process and that the Federal Government needs to be there to help them in their time of need.

My heart goes out to the people of my district and to North Carolina and around the country who have suffered so grievously given this natural disaster. From the Hackensack to the Saddle Brook to the Pasaic, the rains that spilled the waters of New Jersey's rivers onto our communities caused tremendous damage, heartache, and loss. Memories that were encased in family heirlooms and photographs and other priceless possessions were lost. In addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars, millions of dollars in communities that were lost when the rains swept away literally a lifetime of savings and investment.

For the people of my district the effects of this disaster will continue to be felt for weeks, months, and years to come. I have been encouraged by the quick response of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Within hours teams arrived in New Jersey to start the difficult process of assessing the full extent of the damage and providing assistance.

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I also want to commend New Jersey's volunteers and those professionals, the police, fire, first-aid, emergency response personnel, phone, gas and electric company workers, local elected officials and all the volunteers who did such an outstanding job during the flooding and its aftermath to help their neighbors. These heroic men and women put their lives on the line many, many times, and made many, many sacrifices to help the people of our region.

But now that the winds and rains have subsided from Hurricane Floyd, the Federal Government must be there. People debate whether there is a role for government. Well, there surely is a role for the Federal Government in the case of a natural disaster no one could have predicted. And in New Jersey, where we are the second lowest in terms of returning dollars from Washington, we send our tax dollars to Washington and we are the 49th State, almost the lowest ranking, to get money back from Washington.

This is now when we need Congress' help. This is now when we need some of our Federal dollars back to us in New Jersey. I urge all my colleagues to support those efforts and to support House Resolution 322.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding me time, and I congratulate him on offering this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, on September 16, Hurricane Floyd took an unexpected turn after ravaging North Carolina and Virginia and crashed into central and northern New Jersey. The State's capital county, Mercer County, along with eight others, were declared major disaster areas, and, as my colleagues know, such a declaration does trigger the release of Federal expertise and funds to help people recover from Hurricane Floyd.

To date, over 12,000 New Jersey residents have applied for assistance through FEMA. In the short term, we are looking for immediate relief for those who have been devastated, with loans and small grants; and, in the long term, we will be requesting FEMA's help for extensive mitigation projects to protect family and businesses in flood-prone areas such as in the City of Trenton and the Township of Hamilton.

I would just point out for the record, Mr. Speaker, that as a result of that hurricane, in the City of Trenton alone, 40 homes were completely devastated and 25 businesses completely flooded; and each of those people are looking for some help and some assistance.

When disaster strikes, as we all know, the U.S. Small Business Administration acts as the Federal Government's disaster bank. The SBA has

three types of low interest loans. Approximately 3.6 percent is the rate, for 30 years, available to qualified homeowners and non-farm businesses of all sizes. These loans include homeowner loans up to \$200,000 to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Homeowners and renters may also borrow up to \$40,000 to repair/replace personal property such as clothing, property, and cars; nonfarm businesses of any size and nonprofit organizations may apply for up to \$1.5 million to repair or to replace assets like inventory or machinery or equipment damaged by the disaster; and small businesses that suffer economic losses may apply for SBA's economic injury disaster loans.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the individual SBA loans, FEMA has a Hazard Mitigation Program to fund construction projects to protect either public or private property; and we will be pursuing that very aggressively as well.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make one final point. When FEMA arrives on the scene, sometimes people feel that the cavalry has arrived and everything is going to be made whole. But FEMA is not a panacea. It provides a bridge, helps people get back on their feet, but the devastating losses that our friends throughout the country on the East Coast especially have experienced will not be fully compensated for, but we have to do the maximum effort to make sure they are back on their feet and their families are protected for the future through mitigation efforts.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE.)

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) and my other North Carolina colleagues on both sides of the aisle for bringing this resolution to the floor. The flooding with Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd is unprecedented in the history of North Carolina. This disaster met or exceeded the 500-year floodplain for many communities, and 500 years is before settlers had even arrived here in our country.

While the economic losses have been enormous, it cannot touch upon the loss of life that so many fellow Tar Heels have suffered. Hurricane Floyd resulted in 48 confirmed fatalities, and this figure could still rise as search and rescue teams continue to reach isolated communities and flooded homes, cars, and businesses.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once said that noble souls, through dust and heat, rise from disaster and defeat, the stronger.

Indeed, nature's actions have tested our patience, our souls, our will, but we should not break our resolve to recover from this horrific event. We will be stronger, now, more than ever, if we work with the sense of community.

After all, what are we here for? This is the People's House. Our first duty is to help the people of this country. If during this time of crisis, we cannot reach out to our countrymen and women, our children, our senior citizens, we do not have a future. Many of them do not even have today, if we do not unite together, reach across the aisle, not only in our expression of sympathy, but our expression of desire to help. That is our duty. That is our calling as the people who have been elected here to serve the people in this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that every one of our colleagues join us in expressing our deepest sympathy to those individuals and families who have lost loved ones and lost property. I want to thank all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for standing together as we reach those who need help at life's most desperate hour.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution offered by my colleague from New Jersey. Throughout our history, Americans have always distinguished themselves and our Nation through their ability to persevere through trying times. This ability must be attributed in large measure to the faith that we have always had in our neighbors, in our fellow citizens, to help in times of need. The efforts of assistance, not only by those in government but also by those who simply cared, to the victims of Hurricane Floyd certainly stands in validation of this faith.

Having worked very closely with representatives of FEMA in New York State, New York State's Emergency Management Office and its extraordinary Director, Edward Jacoby, the Small Business Administration, and many of the fire departments, town supervisors and sheriff and police departments as we tried to clean up and understand the enormous devastation that hit my district, I know firsthand their selfless devotion and caring work to help people whose lives have been diminished by the fury of this hurricane.

Though lives have been lost and communities damaged and disrupted, the effort to recover and rebuild has generated a sense in many that better days will lie ahead.

So we rise today to reaffirm our fellowship to those affected by Hurricane Floyd. This House extends to these victims our sympathy and our continued commitment to assisting them as they work to rebuild their lives and their communities.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for bringing this resolution to the floor, and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) and the other members of our delegation for working on it.

This expression of sympathy for the victims of this storm is an important symbol that expresses collectively many of our personal thoughts and prayers. And so many have shown genuine sympathy towards those injured and killed by the most destructive natural disaster to ever hit my home State of North Carolina.

Let me say from the outset, I am aware and sympathetic to those affected by the hurricane beyond the borders of North Carolina. My thoughts and prayers are also with you. But, folks, I have seen the suffering in my home State firsthand, and the word "devastating" just does not do it justice.

It is devastating when you lose your job. Those people in many cases have lost everything they own, everything they ever knew. They have lost more than their jobs. They have lost their possessions, their homes, their clothing, those sentimental items that we rarely think about until they are gone, wedding photographs, military awards, a child's first report card, love letters, and, for at least 48 families, a loved one. So much lost, washed away in the flooding not seen in our State in all of recorded history.

In some places entire towns, roads, infrastructure, schools, businesses will have to be rebuilt from scratch. Farmers have lost their crops and have suffered great to their barns, their homes and their equipment. These farmers were already toiling under the worst economic disaster prior to this flooding, and now they have been slammed by a storm.

The people who barely escaped the rushing floodwaters with their clothes on their back hailed from some of the poorest areas in the entire country. Some have said this storm will set back some parts of eastern North Carolina as much as 50 years.

No, "devastating" does not do this storm justice. Hurricane Floyd has been a catastrophe of the highest order.

But, folks, in every storm there is a silver lining. If this storm has proven anything, it has proven the determination, the resolve and the indomitable spirit of the people of North Carolina. Our people come by the name "Tar Heels" honestly, because they stand in the face of adversity, and today they are facing this adversity, but we need the help of this Congress and the people of America.

If something knocks us down, we get right back up to fight another day. And that's what is happening all over North Carolina. People are pulling themselves up by the bootstraps and putting their lives back together. Neighbors are helping neighbors. People all over North Carolina and around the country are

making donations, sending food and supplies and providing their letters and prayers of support.

I personally have felt great sadness at the suffering that has since Hurricane Floyd wreaked havoc on my state. However, I have also been inspired by the determination our people have shown as they struggle to survive. I have never been more proud to be a North Carolinian than I am today. Representing the hard-working, God-fearing and Floyd-surviving people of my district in Congress is one of the greatest honors of my life. The people of North Carolina will survive, as will all those that have been affected by this catastrophic storm. Please join me in expressing sympathy for the victims of Hurricane Floyd by passing this resolution unanimously. And then let us pledge to work together to pass a supplemental disaster relief package for the victims of Floyd that will help all the victims get back on their feet and that will bring honor and distinction on the United States Congress. And please keep the victims of this unprecedented disaster in your thoughts and prayers in the weeks ahead.

Mr. FRANK of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey as well as the gentlewoman from North Carolina for introducing this resolution.

I must say, as many of my colleagues from North Carolina and also from New Jersey and Virginia and elsewhere have said, that this is probably one of the worst natural disasters that we have seen, certainly in my State, and I cannot speak for New Jersey and Virginia. But when you have a gentleman from the State of Maryland who was a volunteer during America's help in Turkey with the earthquake, and he comes back and he goes down to eastern North Carolina and he is quoted in the paper as saying that it reminded him of the Third World, that maybe tells you better than what I can say just how bad things are in eastern North Carolina.

But I will tell you that the resolve of the people in North Carolina and the people of eastern North Carolina is such that when they have been devastated by this natural disaster, they have come together and they take care of their brothers and sisters, as the Bible says, and I can assure you that the outpouring of help, not just sympathy, but help that has come from people within the State of North Carolina, as well as from all over America, is just what America is about. When people are hurting and when people are in need, we as Americans come to each other's aid. That is what makes this country what it is today.

I want to also say that FEMA I think has done an excellent job. It is a tough job. When you have people that are frustrated and stressed and have lost so much, and they are anxious for help, I do want to say that I think FEMA has done an excellent job. Certainly they are overwhelmed by this disaster, but,

again, they are doing their very best to help the American taxpayer and the citizens of eastern North Carolina, as well as Virginia and New Jersey.

I do want to say, Mr. Speaker, that when farmers and business owners and individuals have lost everything, then, as I said earlier today in a morning speech, I think sometimes that we need to reconsider foreign aid. We need to reconsider, that the American taxpayer, the American that has been hurt, should come first.

In closing, I know that this Congress will do everything within its power to help its neighbors in North Carolina, as well as New Jersey and Virginia.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, if you live in a 5-year floodplain or a 10-year floodplain or even a 25-year floodplain, you can reasonably expect to have a flood every 5 years, every 10 years, every 25 years. But when you live in a 500-year floodplain, you cannot prepare for it. You do not buy insurance for a disaster that occurs every 500 years.

□ 1145

This is what has happened in North Carolina. People have been hit by an incident that can reasonably be expected never to occur again in our lifetimes, not again for 500 years. So we need the kind of response in this body to an incident and in a way that demonstrates that we are responding once every 500 years.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank these colleagues for bringing this resolution to the floor, and talk about the resolution for a little bit.

The resolution is three pages long. Most of the first two pages talk about the devastation that has occurred. I want my colleagues to zero in on the last four lines of this resolution, because that is where we make our 500-year commitment to these people.

It says that we pledge to support to continue to work on the people's behalf to restore normalcy to their lives, and to renew their spirits by helping them to recover, rebuild, and reconstruct.

Now, we can express all the sympathy that we want to, and that is important in this context. But this is the four lines that we make our commitment in, and it would be a mistake for any of my colleagues to come and support this resolution simply out of a political motivation to get some brownie points if they are not serious about living up to the last four lines of the resolution.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER).

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this very important resolution. As many of my colleagues

know, I have over 100 miles of coastline in my Florida district. This makes us very susceptible to hurricanes like Floyd.

I never thought I would say that we were lucky to have category 1 hurricane force winds, but we were. However, Hurricane Floyd did cause substantial damage to the coast of Florida, enough to warrant a presidential disaster declaration. My thoughts and prayers are with all of those who are now struggling with rebuilding their homes and businesses. I am confident, however, if that same community spirit in the midst of this disaster continues through this rebuilding, we will all end up with stronger and better communities.

I want to particularly commend FEMA and the State and local and volunteer emergency management organizations that did such an excellent job in aiding our communities during this disaster, and are continuing to aid us as we rebuild.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting today's resolution, and commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) for House Resolution 322, expressing sympathy for the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

We can all imagine how tragic and terrible and disheartening it must be to lose the very basics of life, to see your home and all your possessions lost because of uncontrollable acts of nature. In the wake of the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Floyd, however, there has been a silver lining. That is that people have been drawn together in a spirit of humanitarian concern as thousands of volunteers from churches and community organizations have come forward to offer assistance to those who are facing hurricane-related hardships. They have provided shelter and food and clothing, and most importantly, moral support during this time of crisis.

In my home county of Essex, we have had a serious problem with flooding and malfunctioning traffic lights which has endangered public safety. Fortunately, everyone pulled together with Federal and State support. We have been able to begin rebuilding and repairing the damage caused by Hurricane Floyd.

I am pleased that President Clinton responded favorably to the request by New Jersey and other States affected by the hurricane to be designated Federal disaster areas so we can obtain much needed relief from FEMA and other Federal agencies.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sympathy to the victims of Hurricane Floyd all across the Atlantic East

Coast who have been displaced from their homes or who have lost loved ones. They remain in our thoughts and in our prayers, and we will continue to offer our full assistance as the task of rebuilding gets underway.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, my district, which is located in inland North Carolina, was spared this very, very dreadful disease which now plagues eastern North Carolina. But even though we were spared, every time I go home, groups come to me and say, we cannot do enough for those victims down east, and also in New Jersey, but they are talking primarily about North Carolina.

I called on an old law school friend of mine from Rocky Mount, which is also inland, Mr. Speaker, just to inquire as to how things are progressing. He said, you cannot imagine how bad it is until you come to see it. He said, the television portrayals really do not bring you up to speed.

I guess about the only bright spot, Mr. Speaker, has been the East Carolina University football team. They played South Carolina. They could not return to their home in Greenville because the campus was under water. North Carolina State, which is their arch rival, loaned their stadium to them. There were signs, I noticed, in the East Carolina contingency thanking State, which is quite a landmark, the way those two schools battled each other football-wise. But East Carolina won that game and defeated Miami.

An account in the largest newspaper in my district gave a detailed report of the game, but the focus was on the flood and the people from East Carolina who drove the back roads to get to Raleigh just to escape the flood.

The concluding line of the story was that, oh, incidentally, East Carolina won the football game. But it was incidental, because keeping things in perspective, the news that day was the flood and how those people gathered in that parking lot in Raleigh to hold hands, to laugh, and to cry.

I thank those in this body who are concerned about them, those who are empathizing and sympathizing with the people who have suffered through this disease that plagues North Carolina.

A friend said, Howard, they do not need loans, they need grants. I concur. I hope we can come forward quickly and come to the aid of those people who desperately need it.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) for coming together with all of our colleagues from New York and New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina to bring this timely resolution to the floor.

This bipartisan measure represents the tragedy each of us have observed and experienced in our own congressional districts, and reflects the sorrow we feel for the thousands of individuals, families, businesses, and communities who continue to struggle in the wake of Hurricane Floyd.

Between September 14 and September 17, Hurricane Floyd struck countless communities along the East Coast, devastating homes and businesses. Responsible for at least 66 known deaths and millions of dollars in property and infrastructure damage, Hurricane Floyd is one of the most destructive natural disasters in the history of our Nation.

Accordingly, we have all joined together in introducing House Resolution 322, a resolution expressing the deepest sympathy for the victims of the hurricane, and pledging our support to continue to work on their behalf to restore normalcy to their lives and renew their spirits.

Mr. Speaker, the effects of Hurricane Floyd are continuing to have devastating affects on the State of New York. Numerous municipalities have sustained significant damage from flooding, power outages, and loss of vital public services. Rising waters forced individuals to leave their homes throughout our region, and particularly after the dam at Hyenga Lake burst, portions of the town of the Clarkstown in the State of New York were evacuated.

Presently the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, New York State Emergency Management Office, are working together to provide our injured communities with information, supplies, funding, and peace of mind. We commend them for their vital assistance.

However, the true heroes in this disaster are the people and their will to prevail. Citizens throughout the New York counties of Orange, Rockland, and Westchester are working together to overcome this tragedy. It is amazing to see how our communities have rallied around each other to rebuild their broken communities.

Hurricane Floyd was one of the worst disasters in our Nation's history. The Congress has the duty to recognize the challenges people engulfed in this tragedy are facing, and we must work together, as they have, to ensure our Federal agencies have the necessary support they require to deal with the level of disaster.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank all who have expressed their sympathy, and want to reemphasize the point that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) made; that, one, to empathize is also to support, not just to sympathize. This has been a mammoth, an enormous disaster. There has been none, I am told, in the history of this magnitude for floods in the United States, and never this devastation in North Carolina. Therefore, the response has to be accordingly.

Americans are at their best in disasters. I can tell the Members, if there is any redeeming grace out of this horrific loss, it has to be the generosity of the American people, neighbors helping neighbors.

Equally challenging, however, will be our governments collectively coming together and making the kind of response that is necessary, not for people to recover, but, indeed, for people to rebuild and for communities to be restored.

Again, I urge the support of Members and call for a vote.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentlemen from North Carolina, Mr. WATT and Mr. COBLE, sympathy is not enough. The Congress must help. This was a grave disaster. The carcasses of dead animals are still afloat in North Carolina. It is time for Congress to act.

I want to commend FEMA for a fine job, State and local governments for all the good work they are doing, and all the charitable and civic organizations and all the people of America for reaching out to help.

But I want to make this statement to all of the impacted citizens who experienced this great disaster. After the crisis is over and the media packs its bags and they desert, and we do not see it on the news anymore, the people despair and think maybe they have been forgotten. This is the time for the resolution, because it says the Nation has not forgotten, and more importantly, the Congress of the United States has not forgotten, and will help all of those impacted upon by this great disaster.

I want to commend the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS), and urge everybody in this body to vote for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution which expresses sympathy for the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

Hurricane Floyd dumped 20 inches of rain onto North Carolina alone. In fact, parts of North Carolina received nearly three feet of rain in September.

This resulted in the worst flooding in North Carolina history and the start of a recovery process that could take months, if not years, to complete.

In North Carolina, flood waters have destroyed or heavily damaged 3,000 homes and

forced 42,500 people to apply for state and federal assistance.

When the waters finally subside, Floyd is expected to be the most expensive natural disaster in North Carolina history, topping the \$6 billion price tag from 1996's Hurricane Fran.

FEMA already has approved more than \$4.3 million in direct aid to those affected by Floyd, and insurance companies are extending premium due dates an additional 60 days because so many are unable to return to their homes.

At least 1,500 people remain in shelters, spending nights huddled in sleeping bags and days monitoring media reports on the flooding. The American Red Cross has served hundreds of thousands of meals since evacuations for Floyd began, and the organization expects to remain in the region for months to come.

Panicked residents who have lost everything and have watched the media pack up and leave are afraid the Nation has lost interest in their problems.

This resolution is timely, Mr. Speaker, because it sends a message to the victims of Hurricane Floyd that the Nation has not forgotten them, and the Congress of the United States will make sure they get the aid and assistance necessary to rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), Members from the region, Members from both sides of the aisle, for coming here to express their heartfelt sympathy, but also for us to collectively focus on the job that remains ahead.

This flood has caused enormous displacement in our communities. Our neighbors will need our help in the weeks and the months ahead, and this institution needs to retain a commitment to make certain that these folks get back to a life as normal as possible.

I am looking forward to working with our colleagues to assure that that is the end of this event, a successful conclusion that will have the Federal Government working in partnership with the State and local governments and volunteer agencies to make sure our neighbors get back on their feet.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as record floodwaters receded across New Jersey only weeks ago, the damage toll from Hurricane Floyd inched upward in our state. Surging floodwaters caused several hundred million dollars in property damage and claimed four lives.

As officials struggled to cope with thousands of refugees, families were left to deal with contaminated drinking water, highway closures and lingering phone and power outages.

Nine of the counties hardest hit by Floyd have been declared federal disaster areas—including Hunterdon, Middlesex, Mercer, and Somerset counties in my district.

I was able to see firsthand the damage that the hurricane caused. In Lambertville, I toured the Middle School that only days before had 2–3 feet of water flowing through it. Mud cov-

ered floors, floating school supplies, and overturned desks scattered the building. Officials there told me they expect the clean-up effort may cost up to \$1.5 million.

In Branchburg, I watched as families shoveled mud from their basements—their belongings ruined and homes permanently damaged.

In my Congressional District, there was water everywhere, but none to drink, as flooding contaminated drinking-water sources. More than 200,000 residents throughout the state were urged to boil tap water before using it.

From the scenes of devastation, tales of heroic rescues emerged.

In this time of devastation it gives me some comfort to think on those men and women of New Jersey who thought first of their fellow citizens.

The inextinguishable spirit of the citizens of New Jersey has burned brightly in the days since this horrible disaster. And it will continue to burn as an example for our nation.

However, this spirit alone cannot restore the damage caused by Hurricane Floyd.

While the federal disaster declaration is a substantial step forward in helping central New Jerseyans start to put their lives back together, more immediate assistance is necessary.

In cosponsoring this Resolution, I have pledged my support to continue to work to restore normalcy to the lives of the victims of the hurricane and to renew their spirits by helping them recover, rebuild, and reconstruct. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, New Jersey suffered from some of the worst flooding in 200 years when Hurricane Floyd roared through Jew Jersey in September. Homes, corps, businesses and lives were destroyed.

Floyd is gone, and the flood waters have receded, but many New Jerseyans continue to suffer its effects. Lives were completely disrupted, and they continue to be. Our words here on the House floor have little impact on their suffering, yet they are important because we must ensure that America remembers the havoc Floyd wreaked on New Jerseyans, and the people of coastal North Carolina as well. Furthermore, we must continue to monitor the Federal government's response to this disaster and make sure none of our residents is overlooked.

I also want to take the opportunity to commend the countless men and women who contributed to relief efforts in New Jersey. Whether by wading into the waters to help rescue a stranded citizen, or by aiding with a contribution of time or money to help provide food and shelter for families, many of whom lost everything, New Jersey's volunteers have again demonstrated an admirable commitment to their fellow New Jerseyans, and to them I say, thank you.

To the people of my own district, in Morris, Essex, Somerset, Sussex and Passaic Counties, and elsewhere, and to the people of Bound Brook and Manville, and throughout New Jersey who have lost both their belongings and their faith, let me assure you that Congress has not, and will not forget you.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the

House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 322.

The question was taken.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1200

J.J. "JAKE" PICKLE FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 559) to designate the Federal building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 559

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal Building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY).

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY), my good friend, for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Jake Pickle was a giant in this House. He was a personal friend of mine. He is so deserving of this honor. Some months ago, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) introduced his resolution. I not only supported it, but I moved it very quickly through our committee. We brought it to the floor. I supported it here on the floor. We passed it, and we sent it over to the Senate in May, I believe.

It was my hope that the Senate would have taken it up and would have acted upon it. That is my preference. But, unfortunately, the Senate has chosen not to act upon it, but rather to pass an identical Senate resolution sponsored by Senator GRAMM from Texas.

As recent as last night, we called the Senate again and asked if they would