

HEROES OF THE STORM

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I come before my colleagues today to pay tribute to the many brave Georgians who pulled together to support one another in the aftermath of the devastating tornadoes that hit Southwest Georgia earlier this month. In the pre-dawn hours of Valentine's day, February 14th, the town of Camilla, Georgia was hit by a series of brutal tornadoes that took the lives of nearly twenty people. This storm caused not only terrible damage—destroying homes, farms and businesses—but it tested the limits of residents across the Southwest portion of the state. It has been said that “Poor is the nation which has no heroes. Poorer still is the nation which has them, but forgets.” When the storm calmed, true heroes emerged and they should be recognized.

I ask that I may be able to insert into the Congressional RECORD a list of individuals, organizations, and area businesses that made all the difference in preparing the people of Mitchell, Grady, Colquitt, and Tift counties for recovery from this tragic event. This list reflects only a portion of the many groups and individuals who reached out to our communities in their time of need. There are others who are often lost in the shuffle, whose movements and actions did not attract the media's spotlight. From the children who donated their own toys, to the families who reached into their savings, to the people who opened their doors for relatives or strangers who needed a place to find refuge.

The people and groups mentioned in this insert are not well known. These are everyday people—everyday Georgians. Individually, they each make a small contribution, collectively they make a tremendous difference.

The list follows:

Governor Roy Barnes and the Georgia Legislature; Law Enforcement officials from Mitchell, Colquitt, Tift, and Grady Counties; Chatam County Emergency Management; Mitchell County Community Response Team; Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce; Calhoun County Public Works; C-E Minerals Inc. in Andersonville; Mitchell County Ministerial Alliance of Camilla; Lions Club; Search and rescue teams from Albany/Dougherty, Macon, Colquitt, and Worth Counties; United States Marine Corps; MCLB Fire and Rescue; Georgia K-9 Rescue Association; University of Georgia Department of Student Affairs; Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA).

Georgia Emergency Management Association (GEMA); U.S. Small Business Administration; Georgia State Highway Patrol; Georgia Legal Services; Georgia Department of Labor; Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services; American Red Cross; United Way; Salvation Army; Mitchell County Hospital; Phoebe-Putney Hospital; Homebuilders Association of Georgia; Lowes in Albany; Home Depot in Albany; Adventists Disaster Response; Fort Benning Air Force Command Center; Randolph Southern School; Dry Bank Elementary School; USS Maryland SSBN-738 Gold; Dothan Fire Department; Church of Gainesville; Camilla Lawn and Garden; The Mennonites.

Georgia Baptist Convention Relief Organization; United Methodist Church of Centreville and Macon; Emmanuel Baptist Church of James County; Chestnut Grove Baptist Church; Pitts Chapel United Methodist Church of Macon; Plainfield Baptist Church; Turner County Special Services School; United Methodist Mission Volunteers from Tallahassee, Florida; Lee United Methodist Church, Ebenezer UNC, and Macon Methodist Church; Griffin Church; Chapel Wood United Church of Athens; Zion Hill Baptist Church of Atlanta; Antioch Baptist Church of North Atlanta; County Line Church of Macon.

Waukeenah Methodist Church of Cairo; Calvary Baptist Church; First Baptist of Tifton; Beulah Baptist Church of Camilla; First United Methodist Church of Camilla; East Pelham Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of Camilla; First Baptist Church of Eufala, Alabama; Southern Baptist Group of Georgia; Union Baptist Church of Camilla; and First United Methodist Church of Thom-
asville.●

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB'S 89TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend an organization that has given consistently to our communities over the past 89 years. I am proud to honor the National Exchange Club—an organization that can be characterized by the word “service”—as it celebrates the anniversary of its founding.

The National Exchange Club is a volunteer group of men and women dedicated to serving their communities. Founded in 1911 by Charles A. Berkey, the organization has grown from a single group in Detroit, Michigan to nearly 1,000 clubs and 33,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. In my home state of Minnesota, there are more than 20 clubs committed to making our state and nation a better place to live.

In keeping with its rich history of helping others, the Exchange Club has established Child Abuse Prevention as its national project. By utilizing a wide array of educational programs, local clubs work to create public awareness of child abuse and develop relationships with parents to counter abuse. This program has helped more than 140,000 children since 1979.

Exchange members participate in a variety of other services, such as Youth Programs and Americanism. The Exchange Club's variety of youth programs encourage and recognize students who display good citizenship, community involvement, and scholastic achievement, and serve as volunteers. Clearly, its efforts are shaping the citizens of the future. Exchange's Americanism efforts spread pride in our nation and work to foster an awareness of the wonderful freedoms with which our country is blessed.

The numerous other community service activities the National Exchange Club undertakes are focused on helping the largest number of citizens as possible in their respective communities. All individuals in a community

benefit from the club's crime and fire prevention efforts, its Book of Golden Deeds Award, and the Service to Seniors program.

For 89 years, the volunteers of the National Exchange Club have dedicated themselves to the betterment of our communities. I applaud them on their achievements and wish them a prosperous future.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS BRASHER UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

• Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Thomas D. Brasher, a native of my home state of Louisiana, who will be retiring at month's end after a thirty-five-year career in law enforcement, including thirty years as a postal inspector with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. At the time of his retirement, he will be sixth in seniority among the nation's 2,115 postal inspectors. Although a native of Alexandria, Louisiana, Mr. Brasher has worked with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in California.

Tom Brasher began his law enforcement career in Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1964, when he joined that city's auxiliary police force while attending the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He became a regular officer in 1965 and worked in patrol. He joined the Louisiana State Police in 1966, where he worked until 1970 when he was recruited by the Postal Inspection Service.

Mr. Brasher's Inspection Service career was in the San Francisco Division, now the Northern California Division. Except for a four-year stint in San Francisco, he worked his entire career in San Jose. Mr. Brasher was primarily involved in investigating external crimes and was the first External Crimes Prevention Specialist for the division. He covered all of seven states and the Pacific Islands in that assignment. He also had assignments in child pornography, embezzlements, and the monitoring of the design and construction of post offices. He also served as an ad-hoc EEO counselor for a four-division area. His last assignments have been on the San Jose External Crimes Team, the San Francisco Bay Area Violent Crimes Team, the Northern California Workplace Violence Team and a detail to the Postal Service's robbery task force.

While Mr. Brasher will retire, his wife, Gay Ann, an award-winning school teacher in San Jose, will continue her teaching career. Together they will continue their travels, which so far have taken them to 94 countries around the world.

I know I speak for my Senate colleagues when I wish Tom and Gay Ann Brasher all the best in this new phase of their lives and thank him for thirty years of distinguished service to the United States of America.●