

# ARTISTIC HOMES, A WAY TO CONSERVE OUR ENERGY RESOURCES

(Mrs. WILSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday afternoon I was on the west side of Albuquerque at Artistic Homes. Artistic Homes have changed the way they build homes in order to reduce utility bills.

I met a first-time buyer family that is going to buy one of those homes. They were signing the papers that day. They currently pay \$160 a month for their electric and gas bill, and they expect that bill will be \$20 a month when they move into this new home.

That experience reinforces why conservation must be a part of our energy agenda. We have an energy problem in this country. It is toughest in the West, but it affects us all. There are not going to be any quick fixes. We need a balanced, long-term approach to give us the stability and the energy that we need. This is too important to do anything but the right thing.

We need to start with conservation. We have made tremendous progress in this country over the last 20 years. We are not going back, and nobody wants to. We need a balanced mix of new supplies of energy, and we have to bring on the next generation of new supplies of energy. It is time to pull together and lead, to give us real answers for our energy problems.

## THE TIME HAS COME TO CHANGE THE OUTDATED DAVIS-BACON ACT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like attention to be directed to one of many problems on the outdated Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. As my colleagues know, this law requires the State and local construction projects receiving over \$2,000 in Federal aid must adhere to the Federal prevailing wage, which on average is 17 to 22 percent higher than the State level. Because of these higher wages, State and local construction projects can cost up to 38 percent more than they would have without the act.

This enormous waste of taxpayers dollars is proof that the Davis-Bacon Act should be modernized. In the 70 years since its introduction, the act has never been adjusted for inflation and has not been amended according to current construction standards. Meanwhile, inflated Davis-Bacon costs continually hinder emergency relief efforts and federally-assisted construction projects because of the additional costs communities must pay if they receive a mere \$2,000 in Federal aid.

Because this \$2,000 minimum was set in 1931 and has never been adjusted, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr.

COBLE) and I have introduced H.R. 2094, the Davis-Bacon Modernization Act, which would increase the threshold from \$2,000 to \$100,000. While many of my colleagues believe this number is not high enough, I believe it is a good start. Let us make this law more reasonable and, above all, helpful. I urge my colleagues to help communities across the country to get more bang for their buck. Cosponsor and support the Davis-Bacon Modernization Act.

## THE AGRICULTURAL SUPPLEMENTAL RELIEF ACT

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, it is another tough year for the farmers of this country. Commodity prices once again are below the cost of producing the crop. Imagine the frustration of investing one's heart and soul and extending virtually everything they own to grow a crop that when it is harvested and it is taken to the elevator, the money that is received does not even cover the costs they had of growing it. That is, of course, if the production season is a good one and a crop is actually gotten.

Yesterday I was in fields in North Dakota that have been totally devastated by hail. There will be no crop for these farmers. There will be no income of any kind at the elevator. I raise this to everyone's attention because in a few minutes we are about to consider the Agricultural Supplemental Relief Act. Unfortunately, the Committee on Agriculture brings forward a proposal that reduces by about 15 percent the amount of relief and support we gave to farmers last year.

Now farmers' inputs have gone up. It is costing more to grow the crop. The prices are still lousy. It is no time to cut relief for our farmers. Reject this and increase assistance.

## NORTH KOREA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I recently met with a German doctor, Dr. Norbert Vollertson, and talked to him about his experiences during his 18 months living in North Korea.

□ 1100

The stories of suffering and the photos of starving children and adults were deeply moving. Dr. Vollertson made a strong statement that should spur the international community to action.

When comparing the North Korean prison camps to Nazi concentration camps, Dr. Vollertson said, "No journalist, nobody wanted to believe that Hitler is so cruel, that the German government is so cruel. I think it is my duty as a German to learn from his-

tory, to not make the same mistake twice."

He said what is happening in North Korea in the concentration camps, in his opinion, is as bad as what happened during the Second World War. It is the duty of the international community not to make the same mistake again, to ignore the plight of thousands of people in North Korea who are starving and in terrible prison situations where they are beaten and tortured and executed in horrific ways.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this body and the administration to act on behalf of the people of North Korea, to act to ensure that the regime in North Korea is no longer allowed to continue destroying its people.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

## RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING AND INVALUABLE DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED DURING TROPICAL STORM ALLISON

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 166) recognizing the outstanding and invaluable disaster relief assistance provided by individuals, organizations, businesses, and other entities to the people of Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas during the devastating flooding caused by tropical storm Allison.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 166

Whereas during June 2001 tropical storm Allison brought catastrophic flooding to Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas;

Whereas this disaster tragically and suddenly took the lives of 21 people;

Whereas this disaster injured countless other people, uprooted families, and devastated businesses and institutions;

Whereas the State of Texas has been declared a Federal disaster area, and individuals and families in 28 Texas counties are eligible for Federal assistance;

Whereas numerous individuals and entities have selflessly and heroically given of themselves and their resources to aid in the disaster relief efforts; and

Whereas the catastrophic injury, death, and damage in Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas caused by tropical storm Allison would have been even worse in the absence of local relief efforts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes, for outstanding and invaluable service during the devastating flooding caused by tropical storm Allison in Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas, the following:

(1) the American Red Cross service centers located at Sunnyside Multi-Service Center,

Friendswood Activity Center, Lakewood Church, and Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church, the American Red Cross shelters located at Salvation Army Community Center, Arbor Lights Men's Shelter, the B.L.O.C.K., Oak Village Middle School, Kirby Middle School, and Sweet Home Missionary Church, and the many other voluntary relief sites and shelters who rendered outstanding and invaluable assistance to the victims of the disaster;

(2) the Houston Police Department, the Houston Fire Department, and the Sheriff's Department of Harris County, Texas, who displayed great bravery and dedication in rendering assistance to the people of Houston, Texas during the disaster;

(3) Houston Mayor Lee Brown, particularly for his effort in establishing the Adopt-a-Family program and for his collaboration in the disaster relief efforts with Robert Echols;

(4) Texas Governor Rick Perry and all other State and local officials, who provided invaluable support and assistance;

(5) the Federal Emergency Management Agency, who quickly deployed and responded to the disaster;

(6) the United States Coast Guard;

(7) the Texas Army National Guard, who quickly deployed and responded to the disaster;

(8) the employees of Texas Medical Center, Memorial Hermann Hospital, and Houston Veteran's Hospital, who struggled heroically to perform their jobs amid chaos;

(9) all the volunteers, who are too numerous to name, but who made heroic efforts and special sacrifices and played a crucial role in the disaster relief efforts;

(10) the private sector, including major corporations, other businesses of all sizes, and their employees, who rapidly and voluntarily donated money and other resources to the disaster relief efforts;

(11) the many media organizations who aided the relief effort by keeping the community closely and extensively informed, requesting volunteers, and providing information regarding dangerous roads; and

(12) all the individuals and organizations who immediately and unselfishly helped the people of Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas in their time of need, took quick and decisive action for the public good, and demonstrated an ability to work together for a brighter future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to note that House Resolution 166 was discharged from committee consideration and expeditiously brought to the floor for immediate consideration. This is not the normal process; but in the interest of time, the committee will occasionally discharge consideration.

House Resolution 166 recognizes the dedication and tireless efforts of all of the individuals and organizations who assisted in relief efforts in Houston, Texas, during and in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Allison.

Houston is no stranger to tropical storms named Allison. In June of 1989, Tropical Storm Allison wreaked havoc on Texas and Northern Louisiana,

dumping 15 inches of rain in the Houston area. Total damage from that storm was estimated at \$500 million, and 11 people were killed.

This year's Allison was more focused. Between June 5 and 10, Allison inundated the city of Houston with 35 inches of rain. The storm claimed 23 lives and flooded major highways, hospitals, and homes.

According to the American Red Cross, more than 35,000 homes in the city and surrounding county were damaged or destroyed. Many hospitals and laboratories were flooded, resulting in a blood supply emergency in the greater Houston area. Current estimates place the cost of total damage to the area in excess of \$2 billion.

Fortunately, countless individuals and organizations came to the assistance of Houston area residents in response to the devastation. At its peak, the Harris County 911 emergency system logged 400 to 500 calls each hour. In response, the Houston Fire Department executed 1,200 missions to rescue flood victims stranded in their homes and vehicles by high water. The Texas National Guard assisted in the response using 5-ton trucks to rescue people from their homes. National Guard and fire department efforts were supplemented by the U.S. Coast Guard's dispatch of rescue helicopters. Two hundred people were reported rescued on June 9 and 10. At the height of the storm, 15,000 people were housed in 40 emergency shelters.

Without the assistance of all those who came together to help Houston in its time of need, including FEMA, the American Red Cross, Houston's Mayor, and Texas Governor Rick Perry, the number of lives lost and damage to property from this dangerous storm would have been much greater.

I support the bill and urge my colleagues to join in support of this resolution.

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution; and I join the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the author, and all my colleagues in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the personnel throughout Southeast Texas who have devoted their lives to disaster recovery efforts.

Having walked the streets of Friendswood, Texas, I saw the heartache and loss, both fiscal and emotional, and got a chance to see a lot of that devastation. The people of Friendswood are a strong and resilient people; but without the heroics of those individuals who devote their lives to disaster recovery, the casualties and destruction could have been much worse.

This resolution recognizes the invaluable disaster relief of various agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals who assisted the people of

Houston and the surrounding areas during the devastating floods of Tropical Storm Allison. The resolution states that although 21 people died, the casualties and destruction would have been even worse, if not for the disaster relief given by American Red Cross centers, the voluntary donation of money and resources from individuals and private businesses of Texas, the heroics of the United States Coast Guard, the Houston police and fire departments, and the valiant efforts of many other hospitals and shelters. The bill also lauds the recovery actions of Houston Mayor Lee Brown and Texas Governor Rick Perry.

Looking back to Monday, June 4, when the reconnaissance aircraft first reported the development of Allison, I realized that the main impact of this storm would not be the wind, but would be the rain. Rain totals throughout Harris County and in other portions of my Congressional district exceeded 30 inches during the week-long period when the remains of Allison brought relentless flooding to the upper Texas Gulf Coast.

Of course, no words can adequately describe the devastation that the Greater Houston area felt in the wake of the storm. The Texas coast certainly had not seen flooding of this magnitude in decades. Clearly, this event was more than a wake-up call, it was a stark reminder of the impressive forces that still govern the Earth.

In the midst of the disaster and periods of chaos, there were countless individuals and organizations responded almost instantaneously to help the victims caught by the flood waters. The plight of one became the concern of many, and people displayed an enormous humanitarian spirit that transcended all barriers.

The American Red Cross placed its disaster relief plans into action and opened numerous service centers throughout Harris County and the Ninth Congressional District of Texas. The police, fire, sheriff, and emergency response teams worked quickly and without reservation to minimize injuries and render invaluable assistance.

The disaster tragically claimed the lives of now 23 individuals from practically every walk of life and every part of the city. Deaths would have been in the hundreds, were it not for the heroism, professionalism, and dedication of all those who responded.

The media broadcast around the clock to keep the public constantly informed of the dangerous situation by disseminating critical information. Volunteers, many of whom were also suffering, responded to the calls for help from the various agencies, who were critical to the response efforts.

Our friends at FEMA also did a phenomenal job in a task that was as sobering as it was frustrating. Thousands of people were affected and the recovery and damage assessments still continue.

I toured the devastation firsthand by helicopter and on the ground. The

scenes were tragic: lost homes, lost businesses, lost medical research, and lost lives. Yet the human spirit continues throughout Texas, Louisiana, and across the Gulf Coast States and up the Eastern Seaboard, where Allison ravaged property and tore apart lives.

So as I stand here today reflecting on the tragedy, I am forever grateful to all who assisted; and my prayers continue for the suffering and the afflicted. The strength that all have displayed is worthy of our recognition.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we have seen time and time again that the best qualities within the people that we know often emerge when the weight of a tragic event presses down upon us. In Houston, we have learned this lesson all over again. The unending rains from the Tropical Storm Allison overwhelmed our bayous, overflowed our streams, and flooded our streets and buildings and homes; but they did not dampen the vigor of Houston.

We Texans pride ourselves on maintaining the spirit of the West. It has passed down from the early generations, who fought the elements, to build a new life in Texas. They were tested, and those that stayed shared a very common quality. They had the resilience and resourcefulness to outlast Mother Nature and overcome the obstacles that she places in our path.

Part of that creed is the understanding that when nature strikes, you pitch in to help your friends and neighbors. We understand that. We understand that when we rally together, no adversity, can keep us down for very long. Houstonians demonstrated that they have not forgotten their responsibility to aid each other during Allison.

We feel deeply for all our neighbors who lost a loved one or a friend. This tragedy claimed far too many lives. Many others lost belongings and had their homes turned inside out by this storm. But we can be certain that far more people would have died if Houstonians had not responded as quickly and as vigorously as they did.

Many, many people deserve to be thanked for their efforts. We are grateful to the Coast Guard and Red Cross, to the National Guard troops, and our local police officers and fire fighters. We say thank you. For every individual citizen who lifted a hand or waded out into the flood waters to bring comfort and assistance to the others, we say thank you so very much. Your efforts make us a great community and a great place to raise a family.

All Houstonians also appreciate the swift response from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Bush administration. By reacting quickly, they are helping us get back on our feet.

When I stopped by the Red Cross shelter in Pearland, I saw the best and most poignant tribute to the men and women who pitched in in responding to Allison. Hanging inside the shelter was a little small sign that was written in crayon by a child, and it simply said "God bless you for helping us."

When the floodgates opened on Houston, we were ready to respond with charity, sacrifice, hard work and compassion. I hope we always stand ready to react with the same qualities.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the author of the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for managing the bill, and I thank him for his support. I thank all of my colleagues for supporting H. Res. 166, and I rise to support the resolution that I introduced on June 14 to recognize the outstanding and invaluable disaster relief assistance that individuals and organizations and businesses and other entities provided to the people of Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas during the devastating flood that was caused by Tropical Storm Allison, one of the worse disasters that Houston has known.

Some people would ask, what is going on in Houston, Texas? I would simply say, the greatest amount of charitable spirit, heroic efforts, friendship, love, and the ability of a community to stand up together and say yes we can. But for the heroic efforts of those invaluable volunteers, the catastrophic death, injury and damage would have been far worse.

I commend my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives, especially my fellow Members of the Texas delegation, for joining us in encouraging those altruistic acts of selflessness and heroism.

I remember within the 24-hour time frame of being out walking in neighborhoods, flying overhead, looking at homes filled to capacity up to the roof with water, and yet hearing the tragedies of those who may have been stuck overnight, there were the encouraging words that people were saying, yes we can.

Although words cannot even begin to describe adequately the destruction that Houston and surrounding areas know, I will attempt to paint for you a visual picture.

More than three feet of rain that fell on the Houston area began June 6 and caused approximately 23 deaths. Over 20,000 people have been left at least temporarily homeless during the flooding, many with no immediate hope of returning to their homes. More than 56,000 residents in 30 counties have registered for Federal disaster aid. Over 3,000 homes have been destroyed, over 43,000 damaged. The damage estimates in Harris County, Texas, alone are about \$4.8 billion.

Some of the areas that have been hit, universities in my Congressional dis-

trict, like the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, and a little neighborhood known as Kashmir Gardens. You would think a place filled with flowers. It is an enclave that has a high number of senior citizens, many of whom I visited in the last weekend, some still left in their homes, stranded, possessing few resources, but yet with a strong spirit.

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I watched this past Sunday as the Red Cross team came that we called out to see a senior citizen who had a knee that needed to have surgery, who had not been attended to; and that Red Cross team came like an S.O.S. with an angel standing behind them to help that senior citizen.

Other areas such as Sunnyside in southeast Houston, northwest Houston and around Scarborough High School. Additionally, of course, we all know a very important aspect of our community, the Texas Medical Center, has faced a very uphill battle. But I am very pleased that they are going to have the kind of support where all of the delegation members of this particular delegation will be supporting them and helping them with the millions and millions of dollars of damages, maybe in the billions of dollars of damage, to come back and be able to serve not only Texas, but to serve the Nation. Ten million gallons of water have inundated the medical center complex, and we are working to make sure that they get back on their feet.

But let me share the many personal stories, the help that the Red Cross has given, the 46 disaster centers, the Houston Police Department, the Houston Fire Department, the sheriff's department displayed great bravery and dedication in rendering assistance. Mayor Lee Brown and the Adopt-a-Family program, Judge Robert Eckles, Texas Governor Rick Perry, all of us gathered together, huddled around the Houston TransCar Center, a center that was supposed to deal with traffic; but we determined that it could be an emergency center, and all of us gathered there to design strategy to help those who were stranded.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this is an important resolution to be able to acknowledge, as the Houston Chronicle said, most of the countless acts of kindness and compassion, of heroism and self-sacrifice that will go unsung and the heroes that will remain anonymous, even to those they helped.

I believe it is important to mention some of those personal stories. Time will not allow me to talk about Cora Clay, a sandwich shop employee who fed an entire shelter from funds from her own pocket, or Kathleen Ross who donated two of her rental properties, or the heroic police officers who could not swim, but yet jumped in. C.R. Bean and Mike Lumpkin and Matt May who jumped in to save those who were in their car, floating. The Texas Children's Hospital, the Coast Guard and Texas National Guard.

Let me just simply conclude by saying, it gives me a special privilege to be able to thank all of those people who gave of their time, who gave of their heart. We have spirit in Houston and the surrounding areas. We have spirit in Texas, and we will overcome.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 166, a resolution I introduced on June 14 to recognize the outstanding and invaluable disaster relief assistance that individuals, organizations, businesses and other entities provided to the people of Houston, Texas and surrounding areas during the devastating flooding caused by Tropical Storm Allison, one of the worst disasters Houston has known. But for the heroic efforts of those invaluable volunteers, the catastrophic death, injury and damage would have been far worse. I commend my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives, and especially my fellow members of the Texas delegation, for joining me in encouraging these altruistic acts of selflessness and heroism.

Although words cannot even begin to describe adequately the destruction that Houston and its surrounding areas know, I will attempt to paint for you some of havoc that the storm has wreaked. The more than three feet of rain that fell on the Houston area beginning June 6 has caused at least 23 deaths in the Houston area and as many as fifty deaths in six states. Over 20,000 people have been left at least temporarily homeless during the flooding, many with no immediate hope of returning to their homes. More than 56,000 residents in thirty counties have registered for federal disaster assistance. Over 3000 homes have been destroyed, over 43,000 damaged. The damage estimates in Harris County, Texas alone are \$4.88 billion and may yet increase.

Some of the most hard hit areas include the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, and the Kashmere Gardens neighborhood, a Houston enclave that has a high number of elderly citizens and possesses the fewest resources needed to bounce back from this once in a lifetime event. Other areas such as Sunnyside and South East Houston—northwest Houston around the Scarborough High School area were also hard hit.

Additionally I note the damage which occurred at Texas Medical Center, because what has occurred affects us not just locally, or even just in Texas, but nationally. The Texas Medical Center, home to some forty medical institutions, is the largest medical center in the world. Globally, reknown medical care and research takes place here. The flood has decimated these preeminent health institutions.

The cost to restore the Center is about \$2 billion, which is nearly all of the total \$2.04 billion in damage at Harris County's public facilities. It serves 4.8 million patients yearly with a local economic impact of \$10 billion. More than 52,000 people work within its facilities, which encompass 21 million square feet. The damage includes \$300 million to Texas Methodist Hospital and \$433 million to Veteran's Hospital.

The impact on the University of Texas Health Science Center at the Texas Medical Center is exemplary of how the clinical care, medical education, research and the physical structures at this medical community have been affected.

Ten million gallons of water have inundated the medical school complex, and the earliest

possible start up date for the hospital is mid July, including operation of one of the two Level One trauma centers in Houston. The ability of the center to serve the Houston community will be severely compromised for at least two months. In the entire Houston area, a total of 3,000 beds are out of service.

The UT Health Science Center has incurred \$52 million in physical damage to the facility and \$53 million to the equipment. A total of 400 emergency personnel have been required to assist in the clean up thus far. Moreover, preparation must still also be made for 825 medical students arriving in August, and the floor used for student service functions is estimated to be nine months away from re-opening. Until that point, teaching facilities and services must be dispersed across the city.

Research has been substantially affected, destroying all animal based research due the death of all 4,000 animals. Some of these losses could take as long as three to four years to recoup, and some of the more senior graduate students may have lost their dissertation research, setting back their careers indefinitely. \$105 million in sponsored research has been affected.

Yet the storm has not defeated our spirit. The citizens of Houston are facing the tragedy with the spirit of love and have displayed the true meaning of the biblical phrase the "peace in the midst of the storm." Untold numbers of individuals and organizations have risen to meet the overwhelming challenges that the storm has presented. Among those who have risen to this challenge is the American Red Cross, which at one time was running 46 disaster relief centers around the city to serve those in need, and who, along with the Salvation Army is serving thousands of meals per day. The Houston Police Department, the Houston Fire Department, and the Sheriff's Department of Harris County, Texas have displayed great bravery and dedication in rendering assistance to the people of Houston, Texas during the disaster. Houston Mayor Lee Brown, Judge Robert Eckles, Texas Governor Rick Perry and all other State and local officials have provided invaluable support and assistance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is once again successfully fulfilling its mission, having quickly deployed and responded to the disaster, and the Small Business Administration has also been on the ground providing much needed disaster assistance to families and small businesses. The United States Coast Guard and the Texas Army National Guard have bravely and rapidly served during this disaster. Houston TransCar Center was an outstanding Storm emergency center where strategy to help the victims was designed.

Many major corporations, other businesses of all sizes, and their employees have who rapidly and voluntarily donated money and other resources to the disaster relief efforts. Many media organizations have aided the relief effort by keeping the community closely and extensively informed, requesting volunteers, and providing information regarding dangerous roads.

I wish I could recognize every single hero, but time does not permit that. So I will recount for you a few stories that represent the spirit that we have seen.

There have been the ultimate sacrifices of people like Sharon Mateja of Warsaw, Mis-

souri. Sharon was a Red Cross volunteer and member of the Board of Directors who was crushed by a van while helping another volunteer move bags of ice to a Red Cross van.

This flood has pushed ordinary people to do extraordinary things. As reported in the Houston Chronicle, "most of the countless acts of kindness and compassion, of heroism and self-sacrifice, will go unsung and the heroes will remain anonymous, even to those they helped. Those who are known insist there was nothing exceptional about their actions, that they happened to be in the right place at the right time to help someone in need."

Sgt. C.R. Bean is a Houston Police officer who cannot swim. Yet he and Officers Mike Lumpkin and Matt May plunged into cold, rapidly rising water to attempt to save the lives of three young men whose vehicle had been swept off the road by the torrential waters. They spent at least an hour and a half and were able to save two. They were unable to save Chad Garren, but without the exceptional bravery of the officers, all three would have been lost. Shelters like Oak Village Elementary School and Kirby Middle School were invaluable in helping the displaced.

There have also been the seemingly simple acts of women like Cora Clay, a sandwich shop employee, who fed an entire shelter from funds from her own pockets. Kathleen Ross, who donated two of her rental properties to house families whose houses were uninhabitable due to the flood. Or Richard Hill, who, without being asked to do so, led a friend's horse for three hours through brackish water to a safe pasture. The list goes on and on.

And businesses in our community have not ignored our needs. The Houston Chronicle newspaper and television station KHOU has raised over \$5 million in funds for the Red Cross relief work. Fiesta Market grocery store brought two trailers on eighteen wheelers to feed the shelters. Many other entities have given food, money and other resources quickly and without condition to our community in need.

At two hospitals in the Texas Medical Center, the Memorial Hermann Hospital and Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital, located in the Texas Medical Center, the flooding caused the loss of all utilities. The hard working employees of the hospitals along with Life Flight, the Coast Guard and the Texas National Guard struggled heroically amid chaos to evacuate successfully and safely 540 patients to other hospitals via helicopters and ambulances, some to hospitals as far away as San Antonio and Austin.

Several houses of worship have opened their doors and hearts to the community to give disaster relief assistance, including use of their buildings for FEMA disaster centers and Red Cross Service Centers. Father Enette of St. Peter Claver Church opened his doors, in the midst of his recovery from a stroke. Father Enette never complained about the sacrifice the church would incur due to the substantially increased use of electricity and water as a result of opening its doors. Paster Lewis opened the doors of the BLOCK Church for use as a full time FEMA center to provide relief for those located in the Sunnyside South Post Oak area. There is the kindness of Paster Kirby Caldwell from Windsor Village Church, who made a delivery of clothing and food to one of the shelters within our district. And there is the group known as the Baptist men,

who have prepared more than 62,000 meals. Minister Robert Muhammad and Makeba Muhammed from Mosque #45 in Houston, fed over 3,000 families. Lakewood Church opened its doors to over 2,000 people during the early morning hours after the flood.

Each and every effort made to help the flood victims has been done so not for recognition and public glory, but because it is the right to do.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution attempts to recognize all the individuals and organizations who immediately and unselfishly helped the people of Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas in their time of need, took quick and decisive action for the public good, and demonstrated an ability to work together for a brighter future.

As much as this disaster has torn apart our city and its surrounding areas, it has also bound us together, neighbors, friends and strangers alike. While we cannot personally thank everyone, may all of you know that your courage, hard work, sacrifice and kindness are recognized. And as we recover from this disaster, let those who have suffered know that their needs are heard, their patients gratefully acknowledged and hopefully prayers answered.

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY), who has been such a good friend to Texas in all issues, including his help and response to Tropical Storm Allison. I also want to commend my Democratic colleagues, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), for their leadership in this effort as we jointly work together, and to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), who together as a delegation have been working to try to recover and restore some sense of getting back on our feet in our region.

This storm was more than just numbers. For many of us who have lived in the area a long time, we have seen a lot of natural disasters in our part of Texas, but Tropical Storm Allison was stunning. While it caught us a bit, it did not look like it was a tough, difficult storm to start with; but the damage was remarkable. It is more than numbers.

When I look at the reports each day on the number of homes in my area, as I continue to ask for requests, and the numbers continue to go up and up. In 26 of my communities in North Harris County, in Montgomery County, in Waller and Washington County, we see now over 3,000 homes that have been flooded and need help. That is not including all of the businesses, small businesses, all the road and infrastructure damage. I look at all of the help that has been given by FEMA, the Disaster Assistance Center at Greens Point and all around our region, those

people are working tirelessly. All of the volunteers, the firefighters, the police, the United Way agencies. We have wonderful emergency assistance directors in our counties that have I think been awake since the storm hit us.

For the families that are hurt so bad, this is so important, because being flooded out is a miserable experience. It is so disheartening and disruptive. And the only thing that keeps us going is the prospect of those who are stepping forward to help us through this time of need, our family, our friends, the community, even FEMA workers who I saw in the centers who had been flooded out themselves in other States, who felt the calling to help in the Houston region. It is because of all of those people that we are recovering today.

Mr. Speaker, our region is very strong. We have strong individuals and strong communities; but the assistance that has been provided, both within and without, is irreplaceable. So to all of the volunteers, to all that are helping and continue to help, I wanted to add my "thank you" and sincere appreciation for all that you do and continue to do. We cannot thank you enough.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. BENTSEN), who suffered probably the largest amount of damage there.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I commend the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas, for offering it.

The flood waters from Tropical Storm Allison may have receded, but the damage remains. As I tour the wreckage in my home district of Harris County, Texas, I am confronted with the many stories of tragedy and loss; but what shines through is the spirit of the people of Harris County, the sense of community that has neighbors reaching out to one another, unselfishly bestowing the ordinary blessings of compassion to less fortunate friends and neighbors. A citizenry summoned to the call of charity.

As torrential rains fell on Harris County, power outages at the Texas Medical Center meant patients had to be evacuated. Nurses, technicians, doctors, and orderlies came to the rescue and physically carried more than 540 patients down dark, wet stairways to safety. A local Boy Scout troop guided the volunteers down corridors to awaiting helicopters. Police and firefighters worked double and triple shifts to ensure public safety, even going days without sleep. These men and women who, without concern for their own flooding homes, but the interest of others ahead of their own and are those whom we recognize today.

In the trying times that have followed Allison, the true colors of the ordinary citizens and community leaders have shined. Banks and thrifts have generously offered to waive check-cashing fees and phone companies have donated cellular phones to disaster-re-

lief shelters. More than 600 officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency have assisted nearly 60,000 victims and the Red Cross has aided thousands more. I applaud the businesses and residents and volunteers for their efforts and commitment to transforming our city into a community.

Mr. Speaker, the devastation in Harris County is unimaginable. Billions of dollars in property have been lost. Years of critical research at the Texas Medical Center have been lost, hampering the international medical research grid; and tens of thousands of our fellow citizens have lost their personal property, including the woman I spoke to last week in the Hiram Clarke section of Houston, who lost her most prized possession, the last letter her great grandmother had written her. Having saved it from the first flooding on Tuesday, June 5, she lost it when her home flooded the second time on June 9. But what is more tragic is that 23 fellow Texans lost their lives as a result of this storm.

No Federal assistance or House resolution will ever make up the loss endured by those families, but we know with a little help from our friends from across the Nation we will be able to rebuild Houston; and with the spirit this the city has, we will endure again.

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the physical boundaries of the district I represent in west Houston, district seven, we were very, very blessed and fortunate to have escaped the flooding, in large part. We had a few very small isolated pockets of flooding, but the businesses of many of the people I represent were affected; and the entire city, of course, suffered a devastating blow as a result of the flood.

I was extraordinarily impressed to have seen firsthand the work of the emergency rescue personnel who were staging their operation out of my district in west Houston, out of Tully. The weekend the flooding began, I spent time there at the headquarters where the search and rescue teams were coordinating their efforts, bringing in resources from all over the State of Texas. The Colorado River Authority contributed personnel and equipment; the San Antonio Fire Department contributed personnel and equipment. There were resources from every corner of the State there to help the people of Houston; and it was an extraordinarily impressive operation, to see the ability of these rescue personnel to come in right away, right after the flood, to rescue people from their homes to save them from life-threatening situations.

It was also instructive for me to see as a new Member of Congress that there was, immediately after that initial period of rescuing people, a gap in services where the City of Houston, the

county was unable in many cases to actually get in to some of these neighborhoods that were so devastated to help people clean up their property, take care of the day-to-day essentials of living, which had all been brought to a screeching halt.

What particularly impressed me is that in that gap, between the time the rescue services came in to pluck people off their roofs and get them to hospitals and the time when the city and the county were able to really come into those neighborhoods and help, that gap, which was largely unfilled by local government, was filled spontaneously and almost immediately by the churches of Houston, by the civic associations, by individual Houstonians stepping forward to help their own neighbors and family members.

Therefore, I ask all of my volunteers, all of the people that were gracious enough to help me throughout the last year's election campaign and the people I know throughout west Houston, to contribute their volunteer time, their money and their efforts through their local churches and civic associations, but in particular through their churches, to help relieve the flood victims. I think there is no better example of what President Bush has been talking about; there is no better example of faith-based initiatives than what took place and is taking place today in the City of Houston, with churches like Second Baptist, like our very own memorial drive of the United Methodist Church, which is stepping forward with volunteers and assistance, to help people tear out carpet, to get their homes restructured, rebuilt, their lives restructured where they do not have insurance.

That final phase of the recovery that is going on now, which will go on for months to come, is where the Federal Government can really step forward to help. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution. It is a very, very good example of the unity that is so necessary among the members of the Texas delegation, the Houston congressional delegation, and working together, not only through this resolution to say "thank you" to all of the rescue personnel, but, more importantly, for us all to work together to find ways to ensure that the people who have lost their homes to fill the gap between what private insurances covered and what is not covered; that the Federal Government is there to help pay for the reconstruction, the relocation of families, and to do whatever is necessary to provide every available Federal dollar to repair the damage done to homes, to the Texas Medical Center, to all that irreplaceable research that was damaged as a result of the flood. The Houston area congressional delegation, the congressional delegation from Texas is unified and focused in doing everything that we can to ensure that the damage is repaired as fast as humanly possible.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reassure the people of Houston and the people of

Texas that the money will be there to rebuild, to repair, and to, for the long term, plan for and prevent future floods of this type because of the unified and focused approach of the Houston and Texas congressional delegations.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. GREEN), who toured the devastation with us.

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I represent an area that tragically succumbed to Tropical Storm Allison in northeast Harris County. I want to thank my Texas colleagues for putting this resolution together, but mainly to the hundreds and even thousands of volunteers and workers who donated their time to help Houston residents clean up.

At the top of the list would be the men and women of FEMA who literally were on the ground before the waters receded, assessing the damage and getting a head start on setting up the disaster recovery centers, three in our congressional district in the Jacinto City Community Building, Sheldon Intermediate School, and also in the Aldine School District, the M.O. Campbell Center.

To date, FEMA has received 62,000 applications for assistance, and also their recovery centers have played a role and provided a great deal of effort visiting the Red Cross Centers in our district, the FEMA neighborhood centers, and walking the streets in north and east Harris County showed the huge loss, but also the response from seeing literally people helping each other, communities pitching in and banding together, seeing people in Jacinto City and Galina Park in Aldine and northeast Houston, working together to help overcome this loss; seeing the loss at North Forest Independent School District, Sheldon ISD and also Houston Independent School District.

To date, we know that FEMA and the Small Business Administration made literally millions of dollars of loans and grants to assist Houstonians in replacing their belongings and temporary housing. I urge FEMA to keep these disaster centers open as long as necessary so that individuals can continue to have access to vital services on a personal basis.

I would also like to thank the Coast Guard and our National Guard for their effort and the many employees of the City of Houston and Harris County for their efforts to rescue people and as they go through the cleanup effort now, Mr. Speaker. As Houston and southeast Texas and other areas affected continue the long process of rebuilding, I want to express my thanks to everyone and will continue to work to make sure that the Federal funds are there to help people in disasters.

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Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate people coming together to focus on the heroic efforts that have taken place in Houston in the aftermath of this terrible storm, but I hope we also focus on what we can do to prevent it in the future.

We should as a Congress invest in Project Impact which helps prepare communities before disaster occurs, rather than to cut it, as has been suggested by the administration. We have need to reform the flood insurance program so it no longer subsidizes people to live in places where God repeatedly shows that He does not want them.

It is important that we not ignore global climate change, because the scientists tell us if we are not careful, global climate change is going to make these horrible events that occurred in Houston far more frequent and far worse.

Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for us in Congress not only to reflect on the heroism that took place and to mourn the loss, but for us to step forward to take our responsibility to make sure that we are doing everything possible so that it does not occur in the future.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), my colleague, and the other Members of the Texas delegation for introducing the resolution to recognize those who have helped the people of Texas during the recent flooding.

It is so important to take time to express gratitude to those who have brought relief to the people of Houston during the flooding and its aftermath. I know that Missourians who have experienced flooding, particularly the devastating floods of 1993 and 1995, understand what an effort it takes to recover from such a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, we must not take the contributions of volunteers for granted, for their selfless efforts often come at a great price. If I can bring to this body's attention one particular Red Cross volunteer who answered the call to help the victims of Tropical Storm Allison, Mrs. Sherry Mateja of Warsaw, Missouri, who was killed in a tragic accident last week while helping another volunteer move bags of ice from a tractor-trailer to a Red Cross van at a church in Humble, Texas.

A Red Cross volunteer since 1999, Mateja was an active volunteer with the Pettis County Chapter of the American Red Cross in Sedalia, serving in a leadership role on the chapter's board of directors. She was instrumental in providing Red Cross services in her local community, including the chapter's disaster relief and learn to swim programs.



Her assignment to help relief efforts for Tropical Storm Allison in Texas was her first national disaster assignment. Mrs. Mateja is survived by her husband, John Mateja; three sons, Marc, Nick, and Eric; two grandchildren; her brother, Charles Maggard; and her mother, Margaret Maggard.

While recognizing the work of all the volunteers helping the Houston community, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying special tribute to Sharon Mateja, expressing our gratitude for her contributions to her community and for her selfless efforts to help the people of Texas. I send my sincere condolences to her family and to her friends.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from East Texas (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I represent 19 counties in the Second Congressional District in Southeast Texas, all of those counties were declared a disaster area during the recent tragedy of the Tropical Storm Allison.

I think we all come to the floor today with a deep sense of gratitude for the many who worked so tirelessly to help in that disaster.

I want to mention three organizations that I know were among the private sector organizations that helped the victims of Tropical Storm Allison, that is the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, and Texas Baptist Men. Those three private organizations, in addition to literally scores of others, helped so rapidly and so efficiently and effectively along with our many State and Federal agencies during that time of crisis.

While the greatest damage was in Harris County, there was significant damage in all of the 19 counties that I represent. There has been over 63,000 contacts made to FEMA just in the last few weeks, so we all express our gratitude at this moment to the many who helped during that time of crisis.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the author of the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) for yielding the time to me and for managing the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I also thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY) for managing the bill. The gentleman has a daughter in my congressional district.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for their accomodation in moving this legislation to the floor of the House so quickly.

Let me also thank the House leadership and say, Mr. Speaker, that many times in giving comfort in a religious setting, we will say, this, too, will pass.

I am very grateful to have authored this legislation to not pass over those whose family members were lost, or to pass over those who sacrificed in helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to mention Sergeant C.R. Bean, a Houston police officer, who, as I indicated earlier, could not swim, and along with officers Mike Lumpkin and Matt May, plunged into cold rapidly rising water to attempt to save three lives. The likes of those individuals who came forward are an expression of the kind of spirit we have in Houston, Texas.

As indicated, many of us were out within 24 hours of the flood, joining the Coast Guard and joining FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh, in surveying the area. I want you to know that the religious community stood tall.

It is very important to note the Sunnyside Multi-Service Center, the Friendswood Activity Center, Lakewood Church, the Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church, the American Red Cross Centers, the Salvation Army, the Men's Shelter, the B.L.O.C.K., the Oak Village Middle School, Kirby Middle School, Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church and Lakewood Church that opens its doors to 2,000 people right after the flood.

This was the kind of sacrifice, Mr. Speaker, that was made, Robert Muhammad and Makeba Muhammad from Mosque 45 in Houston who fed over 3,000 families.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the fact that we lost even a Red Cross worker; and the name is Sharon Mateja of Warsaw, Missouri. Sharon was a Red Cross volunteer and a member of the board of directors who was crushed by a van when helping another volunteer move bags of ice to a Red Cross van.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to say that this will not happen again, but we are working diligently with the FEMA resources in restoring them back into the budget and being assured, as I was on the floor of the House, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, that we would not let Houston and the surrounding areas not have the dollars it needs to be restored.

We will be fighting for those dollars; and to those who are seeking to be rebuilt and to be recovered, we will continue to work with you.

We will also work prospectively to ensure that we put in place the kind of structures that help us not have such incidents occur or prevent such incidents from occurring again.

Today, what we are doing, Mr. Speaker, is simply thanking all of those who are still standing and rising to the occasion. We are here to thank the volunteers, the churches, the local officials, because the day still continues where they are recovering and seeking to recover.

It will be a long journey, but when someone asks what is going on in Houston, Texas, and the surrounding areas,

I am saying great activities are going on, great people are working with others and we are doing the job to get the job done.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 166, recognizing the outstanding and invaluable disaster relief assistance provided by individuals, organizations, and businesses, to the people of Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas during the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Allison.

During the month of June, Tropical Storm Allison brought devastating floods and damage from debris to Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and many other states. After the President declared the storm that hit Texas a major disaster, 28 counties became eligible for disaster assistance. Tragically, Tropical Storm Allison is responsible for 21 deaths, countless injuries, and major damage to homes and businesses. Yet, through it all, many individuals and groups selflessly gave of themselves and their resources to help in the disaster efforts. From the Red Cross and Salvation Army, to local churches, to the Harris County Police and Fire Department, to the Texas Medical Center, to the United States Coast Guard, to the dedicated elected officials, to name just a few; they all made special efforts and sacrifices and today, we honor them for their service and dedication to their fellow citizens.

The pending resolution calls our attention to our recent failure to ensure that we will be able to aid victims of Allison and future disasters. Just last week, while the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was working diligently to help the victims of Tropical Storm Allison, the House passed H.R. 2216, the FY2001 Supplemental Appropriations Act, containing a provision, which many of us strongly opposed, to rescind \$389 million in disaster relief funds from FEMA.

Currently, FEMA is assessing the impact of Tropical Storm Allison on Texas, Louisiana, and Florida, and it expects to request additional funds to address these pressing needs. More than 25,000 flood insurance claims are expected from that region of the country, and FEMA is projecting the flood insurance claims for Tropical Storm Allison in Texas and Louisiana alone will exceed \$350 million.

The proposed rescission could preclude FEMA's ability to pay these claims and it might limit assistance to future victims of disasters and necessitate another supplemental spending bill. The rescission eliminates much of the funding needed by the agency to provide quick and effective assistance to disaster-stricken communities and victims. The most recent disasters highlight the fact that these funds could be needed by FEMA to pay for natural disasters occurring in FY2001. They should not be rescinded.

Moreover, with the increases in climate change brought on by global warming, we should begin to expect more natural disasters. According to recent data, in 1999, the United States experienced the warmest January-March period since we began keeping these records 106 years ago. Climate change and these recent warming patterns are costly to the Nation. These temperature changes can lead to more extreme weather events, including droughts, floods, and hurricanes.

Over the past decade we have seen a marked increase in natural disasters and this trend is expected to continue. FEMA data show that more frequent and severe weather

calamities and other natural phenomena during the past decade required 460 major disasters declarations, nearly double the 237 declarations from the previous ten-year period, and more than any other decade on record. The increased number and severity of natural disasters has huge economic impacts on the United States. Comparing the three-year periods of 1989 through 1991, and 1997 through 1999, the federal cost of severe weather disasters rose a dramatic 337 percent in less than ten years. Of the \$35 billion that FEMA has spent in the last 20 years for disaster relief, \$28 billion, or 80 percent, has occurred in the last seven years alone (1993–2000). In addition, the insurance industry has paid more than \$63 billion in insured losses in these seven years.

Fortunately, the Senate Appropriations Committee has reported its Supplemental Appropriations bill and it does not contain the \$389 million rescission from FEMA's contingency fund. I am hopeful that the conference report on this bill will not accept the House provision on FEMA's rescission. We are all aware of the critical and fundamental support that FEMA provides for the victims of natural disasters. It is essential that we do not hinder FEMA's mission by allowing unwarranted rescissions or cuts to FEMA's budget.

Again, I commend the numerous individuals, government agencies, and groups of people in Texas who heroically gave of themselves and assisted their fellow citizens through a major disaster. They serve as an inspiration to us all and I pledge to work together with FEMA and other agencies on behalf of these victims to help them rebuild their lives and renew their spirits.

I urge all Members to support H. Res. 166.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 166, which honors the men and women, community organizations and businesses, and the government entities that provided relief and assistance to the people of Texas in the wake of tropical storm Allison.

It is truly times like these, when Mother Nature strikes suddenly and strongly, that communities must come together to help people whose homes and businesses are damaged or destroyed and who might have suffered loss of life within their families. It is a true testament to the spirit of community to see neighbor selflessly helping neighbor in these circumstances, and I commend the men and women who lent of their time, energy, money, resources, and friendship to make the flooding in Houston and its suburbs less painful for their neighbors.

While the damage was not nearly so severe, I would be remiss if I did not mention the community spirit of Floridians who helped to reduce the pain and suffering that tropical storm Allison brought to the people of Florida. For instance, local fire and rescue workers attempted to save swimmers who regrettably drowned off of Florida Panhandle beaches in the storm-tossed waters of the Gulf. They also worked to save men and women caught off guard by the flooding in Tallahassee and elsewhere in North Florida. Also, electric company and utility employees worked to keep power, water, and information flowing into people's homes and businesses as North Florida was pelted with heavy rain, 40–55 mile-per-hour winds, and 15-foot waves.

It is in their honor, as well, that I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H. Res. 166 and applaud Ms. JACKSON-LEE for introducing this resolution. H. Res. 166 commends the many volunteers, public safety officials, agencies, and businesses that rose to the challenge of tropical storm Allison. The storm took 22 lives and caused at least \$4.8 billion in property damage.

Living in San Francisco, in an area that is prone to natural disasters, I appreciate the commitment and heroism shown by so many people in the wake of a major natural disaster. Thanks to many brave and generous individuals, Houston and the communities around it pulled through the storm and are on the road to recovery.

I came back this morning from Houston, where I had the great pleasure of meeting my 6th grandchild, who was born on Sunday. While the damage in the area is clearly visible, so are the signs of healing. For my own family and all the people who call Houston home, I was pleased to see the recovery already underway. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 166.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LAMPSON. 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include therein extraneous material on H. Res. 166.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR ON H.R. 2149

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2149.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### 2001 CROP YEAR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2213) to respond to the continuing

economic crisis adversely affecting American agricultural producers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2213

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

#### SECTION 1. MARKET LOSS ASSISTANCE.

(a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use \$4,622,240,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make a market loss assistance payment to owners and producers on a farm that are eligible for a final payment for fiscal year 2001 under a production flexibility contract for the farm under the Agriculture Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.).

(b) AMOUNT.—The amount of assistance made available to owners and producers on a farm under this section shall be proportionate to the amount of the total contract payments received by the owners and producers for fiscal year 2001 under a production flexibility contract for the farm under the Agricultural Market Transition Act.

#### SEC. 2. SUPPLEMENTAL OILSEEDS PAYMENT.

The Secretary shall use \$423,510,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make a supplemental payment under section 202 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-224; 7 U.S.C. 1421 note) to producers of the 2000 crop of oilseeds that previously received a payment under such section.

#### SEC. 3. SUPPLEMENTAL PEANUT PAYMENT.

The Secretary shall use \$54,210,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide a supplemental payment under section 204(a) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-224; 7 U.S.C. 1421 note) to producers of quota peanuts or additional peanuts for the 2000 crop year that previously received a payment under such section. The Secretary shall adjust the payment rate specified in such section to reflect the amount made available for payments under this section.

#### SEC. 4. SUPPLEMENTAL TOBACCO PAYMENT.

(a) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall use \$129,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide a supplemental payment under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-224; 7 U.S.C. 1421 note) to eligible persons (as defined in such section) that previously received a payment under such section.

(b) SPECIAL RULE FOR GEORGIA.—The Secretary may make payments under this section to eligible persons in Georgia only if the State of Georgia agrees to use the sum of \$13,000,000 to make payments at the same time, or subsequently, to the same persons in the same manner as provided for the Federal payments under this section, as required by section 204(b)(6) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000.

#### SEC. 5. SUPPLEMENTAL WOOL AND MOHAIR PAYMENT.

The Secretary shall use \$16,940,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide a supplemental payment under section 814 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted by Public Law 106-387), to producers of wool, and producers of mohair, for the 2000 marketing year that previously received a payment under such section. The Secretary shall adjust the payment rate specified in such section to reflect the amount made available for payments under this section.