

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged over 300 hours of operational hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 739 hours of flight time through and around the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, worked expeditiously after Hurricane Charley to fix data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas more than 7,000 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over the Southeastern United States several days in advance; and

Whereas the hurricane season continues through November, and all these employees continue tracking new tropical depressions approaching the United States coast: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the employees of the National Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and National Data Buoy Center; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center

at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the Hurricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(2) commends the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(3) commends the employees of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, especially the Hurricane Research Division;

(4) thanks the commercial and media meteorologists for their contributions in disseminating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts and warnings to the public; and

(5) expresses its support for the ongoing hard work and dedication of all who provide accurate and timely hurricane forecasts.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. on various nominations (names to be released later in week) at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 10 a.m., to hear testimony on "FDA, Merck and Vioxx: Putting Patient Safety First?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 10 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on pending Committee matters, to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on the Water Problems on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management support of the committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. in open session to receive testimony on the status

of financial management reform within the Department of Defense and the individual services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 2 p.m. on the Science Behind Pornography Addiction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 149, introduced earlier today by Senator HOLLINGS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 149) commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 149) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 149

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation's citizens;

Whereas 4 hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, recently hit the State of Florida, an event which has not occurred since 4 hurricanes struck Texas in 1886;

Whereas Hurricane Jeanne was the fourth hurricane in 6 weeks to hit the United States mainland;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted approximately 1,128 live television and radio interviews as

well as 1,480 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricane Frances;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the evacuation of millions of residents in the line of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and warnings to the residents of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Hurricane Research Division at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, Florida conducts the research needed to improve hurricane forecasts and went on flights in and around hurricanes to gather and improve data that goes into the National Hurricane Center's forecasts, watches, and warnings to protect lives and property;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, New Jersey developed, carefully monitors, and continues to improve the National Weather Service's operational hurricane model used to determine where the storms are likely to go;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged over 300 hours of operational hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 739 hours of flight time through and around the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, worked expeditiously after Hurricane Charley to fix data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas more than 7,000 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were

issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over the Southeastern United States several days in advance; and

Whereas the hurricane season continues through November, and all these employees continue tracking new tropical depressions approaching the United States coast: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the employees of the National Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and National Data Buoy Center; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the Hurricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(2) commends the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(3) commends the employees of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, especially the Hurricane Research Division;

(4) thanks the commercial and media meteorologists for their contributions in disseminating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts and warnings to the public; and

(5) expresses its support for the ongoing hard work and dedication of all who provide accurate and timely hurricane forecasts.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ASTRO-NAUT LEROY GORDON COOPER, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 470, which was submitted earlier today by Senator INHOFE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 470) honoring the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 470) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 470

Whereas Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., was born on March 6, 1927, in Shawnee, Oklahoma;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as a colonel in the United States Air Force and was selected as one of the original Project Mercury astronauts in April of 1959;

Whereas the 7 original Project Mercury astronauts helped to inspire generations of scientists and engineers;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper piloted the Faith 7 spacecraft on the final operational mission of Project Mercury from May 15 to May 16, 1963, he traveled a total of 546,167 statute miles and became the first astronaut from the United States to spend more than a day in space;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper served as command pilot on the 8-day 120-orbit Gemini 5 mission that began on August 21, 1965, he and pilot Charles Conrad established a new space endurance record by traveling a distance of 3,312,993 miles in an elapsed time of 190 hours and 56 minutes;

Whereas Gordon Cooper was the first man to go into space for a second time;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as backup command pilot for the Gemini 12 mission and as backup commander for the Apollo 10 flight;

Whereas Gordon Cooper logged 222 hours in space and retired from the Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1970;

Whereas the special honors Gordon Cooper received during his lifetime included the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Distinguished Service Medal, and the John F. Kennedy Trophy; and

Whereas Gordon Cooper passed away at his home in Ventura, California, on October 4, 2004, at the age of 77: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr.

AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF TRIBUTES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 471, submitted earlier today by Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 471) authorizing the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of the late Senator Paul Simon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as we approach the first anniversary of the death of Senator Paul Simon, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my late friend and colleague.

At the age of 19, Paul Simon became the Nation's youngest editor-publisher when he accepted a Lion's Club challenge to save the Troy Tribune in Troy,