

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 ASTRONAUT 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,

IL. From that start, he build a chain of 13 newspapers in southern and central Illinois.

Paul Simon served the State of Illinois and the United States for decades. He is the only individual to have served in both the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

Paul highly valued education and the youth of our Nation. In addition to his work in Congress to strengthen public education in America, he started the public affairs reporting program at Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois at Springfield. He later became the founder and director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL, and taught there for more than 6 years.

Weeks before his death, Paul made the rounds to Washington and the editorial boards in Chicago. He was promoting an idea to create a new scholarship program which would send American students overseas to study and invite their foreign counterparts to come to America to learn. As Paul explained it, this opportunity to learn would help an often hostile world to understand us and help the next generation of American leaders to understand the world we live in. It was Paul Simon's long-term solution to the threat of terrorism: dialogue, education and tolerance—the hallmarks of his public life. In a modest way, we came through for him.

Earlier this year, this Congress established a commission to recommend the framework for an international study abroad program for college students. The program Senator Simon envisioned and worked so hard to create was what he called the Lincoln Fellowships. The program under development is designed to encourage and support the experience of studying abroad in developing countries—in countries whose people, culture, language, government, and religion might be very different from ours.

Shortly after Paul's death, I introduced legislation to name the Federal building located at 250 West Cherry Street in Carbondale, IL, the "Senator Paul Simon Federal Building." In May 2004, this bill was signed into law. Naming this building in Carbondale after Paul Simon will help present and future generations remember and honor a great man who lived in and worked for the people of Southern Illinois and served in our Federal Government with the greatest integrity.

From journalism to Government to education, Paul Simon set the standard for honesty and caring in public life. Paul set a standard for integrity in public life the rest of us can only aspire to. Whether you agreed with his politics or not, you always knew you could trust Paul. He didn't apologize for dedicating his public life to the less fortunate. He believed and taught those of us who worked with him that honesty

and caring were the real standards for public service. He was genuine in his politics, in his life, and in his values.

I wouldn't be a Senator today if it weren't for Paul Simon. He believed in me, he inspired me, and he was a true friend.

Today I am introducing a resolution to authorize the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of Senator Simon. This resolution will authorize the collection and printing of these materials in an official Senate document. The compilation of the tribute statements made by my Senate colleagues will serve as a lasting testament to our former colleague.

Through these small measures, Congress has paid tribute to the lasting legacy of our friend, Paul Simon. His dedication to public service serves as an example for all Americans.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 471) was agreed to, as follows:

#### S. RES. 471

*Resolved*, That there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of tributes and other related materials concerning the Honorable Paul Simon, late a Senator from the State of Illinois.

#### FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF CONFEDERATED TRIBES COMMENDING INEZ SITTER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 423 and S. Res. 441, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the resolutions by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 441) expressing the sense of the Senate that October 17, 1984, the date of the restoration by the Federal Government of Federal recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, should be memorialized.

A resolution (S. Res. 423) commending Inez Sitter for her service to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions, en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, en bloc, the preambles be agreed to, en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measures be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 441 and S. Res. 423) were agreed to, en bloc.

The preambles were agreed to, en bloc.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

#### S. RES. 441

Whereas the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), which was signed by the President on October 17, 1984, restored Federal recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians;

Whereas the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians historically inhabited land now in the State of Oregon, from Fivemile Point in the south to Tenmile Creek in the north, west to the Pacific Ocean, then east to the crest of the Coast Range, encompassing the watersheds of the Coos River, the Umpqua River to Weatherly Creek, the Siuslaw River, the coastal tributaries between Tenmile Creek and Fivemile Point, and portions of the Coquille watershed;

Whereas in addition to restoring Federal recognition, that Act and other Federal Indian statutes have provided the means for the Confederated Tribes to achieve the goals of cultural restoration, economic self-sufficiency, and the attainment of a standard of living equivalent to that enjoyed by other citizens of the United States;

Whereas by enacting the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), the Federal Government—

(1) declared that the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians were eligible for all Federal services and benefits provided to federally recognized tribes;

(2) provided the means to establish a tribal reservation; and

(3) granted the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians self-government for the betterment of tribal members, including the ability to set tribal rolls;

Whereas the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians have embraced Federal recognition and self-sufficiency statutes and are actively working to better the lives of tribal members; and

Whereas economic self-sufficiency, which was the goal of restoring Federal recognition for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, is being realized through many projects: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that October 17, 1984, should be memorialized as the date on which the Federal Government restored Federal recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

#### S. RES. 423

Whereas the United States, and subsequently the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, have operated a school at Hartshorne, Oklahoma, called the Jones Academy for more than 100 years, a facility that, since 1952, has provided residential services to predominantly at-risk children from more than 20 Indian tribes throughout the United States who attend local, public school academic classes;

Whereas for approximately half that time, Mrs. Inez Sitter has been a vital part of that school and its efforts to educate American Indian children;

Whereas Mrs. Sitter came to the school in an administrative post in March of 1944 and progressed through various administrative capacities to be the Administrative Assistant at the school;

Whereas Mrs. Sitter formally retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1983, after 39 years of service;