

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Mr. DODD. Madam President, as all Americans, especially those in Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana well know, this hurricane season is proving terribly destructive and it is not over yet. Many of my colleagues have risen before this body to describe the damage caused by Hurricanes Charley, Francis, and Ivan. I want to commend them for their efforts and commend this body for the speed with which it passed \$2 billion worth of aid to help Florida recover from the devastation. I understand additional aid packages are also under consideration, and I urge my colleagues to move as swiftly as possible to provide all necessary aid to help those who were affected by these storms.

At the same time, I want to call attention to another region which was also hard-hit by these storms. To date, Hurricanes Charley, Francis, and Ivan, as well as Tropical Storm Jeanne have claimed the lives of well over 1,000 people and caused extensive damage throughout the Caribbean, especially in Haiti, Grenada, and Jamaica.

Just this past week, Tropical Storm Jeanne made landfall on the Island of Hispaniola. Rain, mud slides and flooding have made it the season's deadliest storm, claiming at least 1,070 lives in the impoverished nation of Haiti, 19 in the Dominican Republic and 7 in Puerto Rico. As of September 21, 50 percent of the city of Gonaives, in northern Haiti, remained under water, and the loss of lives and infrastructure to the people of Gonaives are enormous and likely to increase.

Tropical Storm Jeanne is only the latest in what has been a deadly hurricane season. Two weeks ago, Hurricane Ivan cut a swath of destruction across much of the Caribbean. Keith Mitchell, the Prime Minister of Grenada, called the damages to his island, "beyond imagination," and with good reason. Over 90 percent of the buildings in Grenada were damaged by the storm. Two thirds of the population, approximately 60,000 out of a total of 95,000 residents, are now homeless. Power is out across the island, and the Grenadan people are in desperate need of food, water, and shelter. The Hurricane even destroyed a 17th century stone prison, allowing a number of inmates to escape.

I am pleased that the United States has already provided nearly \$1 million in direct assistance to Grenada, \$700,000 to Jamaica, \$300,000 to the Bahamas, and \$60,000 to Haiti. The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, moreover, currently has teams on the ground throughout the Caribbean, assessing what steps the United States should take to bring additional aid to this devastated region.

But the Caribbean remains in desperate need. United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination teams have estimated that more than 50,000 people require urgent water and sanitation services in Jamaica. In the Gonaives region of Haiti, at least 20,000

are homeless, and 80 percent of the population was severely affected by the storm. Indeed, our immediate goal has to be providing basic necessities: food, water, shelter.

But while we must focus on these requirements, we cannot forget that rebuilding lost infrastructure in these countries will require a much more significant and sustained commitment of aid. It is always difficult to estimate total damages so soon after such a devastating storm, but one thing is certain—the cost of recovery will be immense. The World Bank estimates the rebuilding costs in Grenada alone are likely to rise to several billion dollars. The United States and the international community must rise to this challenge.

Many countries and organizations have already made some important contributions. CARICOM nations, in particular, have stepped forward to provide assistance. Trinidad and Tobago has pledged \$1.7 million to Grenada and Jamaica, and around 200 troops from CARICOM countries have helped restore order in St. George's, the capital of Grenada, where looting was rampant in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

These storms, however, did more than just knock out power and telephone lines. They damaged schools and hospitals. They destroyed agriculture and industry critical to the long-term economic future of the region. In Grenada, the nutmeg crop, which is critical to the Grenadan economy, suffered extensive damages, and these crops will take years to recover, since Nutmeg trees take as many as 20 years to grow to their full potential. The year's banana crop was almost entirely lost, and the tourist industry was also badly damaged. National Public Radio quoted an advisor to Prime Minister Mitchell as saying, "Grenada has no economy. The economy is dead."

Flooding, meanwhile, has destroyed homes and crops throughout Haiti, particularly in the northern region of Gonaives. Most of the agricultural land outside that city has been flooded, and at least 20,000 are without homes. The poorest nation in the Americas, Haiti has already suffered from political turmoil as well as flooding, which four months ago claimed the lives of at least 1,700 people. As I mentioned earlier, this time, more than 1,070 have lost their lives.

Mr. President, Louis Telesford, a 27 year old Grenadan, had his wooden home destroyed by Hurricane Ivan. According to the Associated Press, he is now living along with 15 other people in his neighbor's concrete house. "It's going to be a long, long time before we recover," said Mr. Telesford. "We need help." I urge the administration to ensure that we provide this critical assistance.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BOISE AIRPORT TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I offer my congratulations to the men and women who operate the Boise Airport Traffic Control Tower, ATCT, on its being named the Regional Facility of the Year for 2003 by the FAA.

The Boise ATCT was rated outstanding and best among five other level-8 facilities with the FAA Northwest mountain region. Each facility was evaluated in the categories of operational excellence, communications, employee development, external relations, resource management, human relations, professionalism, employee morale and customer service. Boise's outstanding facility handled 163,022 operations in 2003 with consistent, dedicated and superior service.

I am proud of these highly capable men and women, and proud to have them representing our State. I wish each of them continued success in serving the great State of Idaho, its citizens and the citizens of the Nation. •

POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise today to salute the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland on the occasion of their thirtieth anniversary.

In 1974, a hearty band of Polish-Americans in Maryland decided to make a difference by founding the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland. Founders, like Stan Ciesielski, came together to make outstanding contributions to America, future generations and Poland. The Polish Heritage Association shows that in America, it is possible to be both Polish and American; by promoting the rich legacy of our past and enriching our community for the future.

The Polish Heritage Association does this through scholarships for young people: over \$160,000 supporting more than 150 of Maryland's best and brightest students of Polish ancestry. The Polish Heritage Association has also been tireless in their humanitarian support for Poland. As the Polish people suffered under martial law, they created and organized Maryland Action for Poland, raising thousands of dollars and sending thousands of food packages to Poland. In 1995, the Polish Heritage Association raised over \$300,000 to send medical supplies to Lodz, where Communist mismanagement had led to severe supply shortages.

The Polish Heritage Association has forwarded Polish life with cultural and educational programs, such as lectures, concerts and exhibits. The Polish Heritage Association has shown that by organizing and cooperating with each other, we can make a real difference.

I am proud to be the first Polish-American woman in Senate. Growing up in East Baltimore, I learned about

our proud history. Poland's history is marked by strong, achieving women, from Queen Jadwiga, ushering in Poland's "golden age," to Marie Sklodowski Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. I learned about Polish heroes like Copernicus, Chopin and General Pulaski and General Kosciuszko. I also learned that the history of Poland has been a sometimes melancholy one. Every king, Kaiser, czar or comrade who ever wanted to have a war in Europe always started by invading Poland. But while Poland was sometimes occupied, the heart and soul of the Polish nation was never occupied.

In 1980, an obscure electrician, working in the Gdansk shipyard jumped over a wall proclaiming the Solidarity movement. He took the Polish people and the whole world with him to bring down the Iron Curtain.

I grew up with the values that our Polish community holds so dear. Values like patriotism, social justice, respect for others, hard work and loyalty. These are the values I carry with me on the floor of the Senate.

I am proud of my record of standing up for Poland: from solidarity to the Senate floor. I fought to enlarge NATO and I am so proud that Poland is now a full, contributing member, playing an important role in every NATO action. Poland has stood with our American troops in Iraq, fighting alongside from day one.

We know that Poland faces many challenges: its economy, growing international commitments and the pains from moving to a free market democracy. But I will continue to stand up for Poland, and so will the Polish Heritage Association.

Just this week, I introduced legislation to extend the United States Visa Waiver Program to Poland. I joined with Lech Walesa to stand up for Polish citizens who want to travel to the U.S. for business or tourism so they can stay for up to 60 days without needing to stand in line to get a visa. I am fighting to remove barriers so the Pulaskis and Kosciuszkos and Marie Curies of today can visit our country, to keep the doors of friendship open. Immigrants built this country; we can't close the door behind us.

I am proud to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, and salute this organization on the floor of the United States Senate. So many things to celebrate: a thriving Polish Community in Baltimore and 30 years of contributions to family, country, and heritage.●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JEROME L. JOHNSON

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor an exceptional leader and true patriot. After a lifetime of service to our Nation, Jerome L. Johnson is retiring from his current position as chairman of the Military Officers Association of America, effective October 14,

2004. On this occasion, it is fitting to also recognize his 38 years of commissioned service as a naval officer and exemplary leadership as president and chief operating officer of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Admiral Johnson's career illustrates a lifelong commitment to service with honor and dedication to causes than his own self-interest.

A native Texan, he graduated from Texas A&M University, completed the Naval Aviation Cadet Program, and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy in 1956. As a naval aviator, he served with distinction in a wide range of combat, command, and staff assignments. Admiral Johnson's distinguished naval career culminated with tours of duty as commander Second Fleet, commander of NATO's Striking Fleet Atlantic, and finally as the vice chief of Naval Operations. He retired from military service in 1994 as the senior naval aviator on active duty, receiving the prestigious honorary title of the Navy's "Gray Eagle."

Admiral Johnson's selfless devotion to service and quest for excellence continued long after he left active duty. For 10 years, he served as president and chief executive officer of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, which provides financial, educational, and other assistance to active-duty and retired sailors, marines, and their family members. He also was elected to the board of directors of the Retired Officers Association in 1998, became the chairman of the board, and oversaw the organization's successful transformation into the Military Officers Association of America. Through his responsible stewardship, MOAA continues to support Congress by advocating legislative initiatives that improve readiness and quality of life for all current and retired members of our services, as well as their families.

We are grateful to Admiral Johnson for his outstanding leadership in uniform and in private life by supporting members of the Armed Forces, the military coalition, and all veterans. We offer Admiral Johnson a sharp salute, and wish him "fair winds and following seas."●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker of the House of Representatives has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 265. An act to provide for an adjustment of the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1521. An act to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1616. An act to authorize the exchange of certain lands within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for lands owned by the City of Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1648. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution systems of the Cachuma Project, California, to the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District.

H.R. 1658. An act to amend the Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act to validate additional conveyances of certain lands in the State of California that form part of the right-of-way granted by the United States to facilitate the construction of the transcontinental railway, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1732. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2696. An act to establish Institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior West.

H.R. 3209. An act to amend the Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 1972 to clarify the acreage for which the North Loup division is authorized to provide irrigation water under the Missouri River Basin project.

H.R. 3249. An act to extend the term of the Forest Counties Payments Committee.

H.R. 3768. An act to expand the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

S. Con. Res. 137. Concurrent resolution calling for the suspension of Sudan's membership on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2449. An act to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

H.R. 2528. An act to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3589. An act to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

H.R. 3734. An act to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson