

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNM-LOS ALAMOS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 25th anniversary of the Los Alamos branch of the University of New Mexico. Nestled in the mountains, this bustling center of science and education is a mainstay in the community of Los Alamos. Initially a graduate studies center for science, engineering and management, UNM-Los Alamos has evolved into a state-of-the art facility offering a broad base of educational programs.

UNM-LA offers a variety of associate's degrees and certificates, as well as courses that transfer toward a bachelor's degree. Small, personalized classes taught by dedicated instructors give students the attention normally associated with liberal arts colleges. Affordability is also a key factor at UNM-LA as lower division classes cost students a mere 25 percent of the main campus tuition rate.

Student success is the main focus at UNM-LA where a range of classes are offered on many educational levels to students from diverse backgrounds. UNM-LA provides Adult Basic Education, GED training, English as a Second Language instruction and a tutorial center to supplement the classroom experience. In addition to the core curriculum, upper division classes are available to graduate students through the UNM Extended University at UNM-LA.

In partnership with the Los Alamos National Laboratory, UNM-LA provides the most current computer training to Lab and contract employees. Responsive to current need, these classes enable employees to build necessary skills for career advancement within the Lab. Several science and technology programs prepare students for work at the Lab and many UNMLA graduates find employment at LANL.

Approximately 2,500 students attend UNMLA each year with campus housing available to those who wish to live in the beautiful Los Alamos area. Campus life includes student government, music, art and a Student Center with numerous activities. The natural beauty and recreation opportunities surrounding the campus make UNM-LA an ideal setting for living and learning.

UNM-LA further enriches the community by hosting events such as concerts, art exhibits and lectures on campus throughout the year. Several satellite locations in neighboring communities give access to students outside the main campus area. UNM-LA is also involved in the administration of two small business development centers in Los Alamos and Sandoval counties.

Mr. Speaker, UNM-LA has brought quality higher learning to the dynamic Los Alamos area. Serving Northern New Mexico for 25 years now, UNM-LA has provided well-rounded educational and life experiences to thousands of students. Graduates of UNM-LA have no doubt taken with them a strong ethic of learning and a stronger sense of community as well.

EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Our thoughts are with all those who have been stranded by the storm, separated from their family and friends, and have suffered from tremendous personal and emotional losses. Worst of all is that it was the least among us—the poor, elderly, and infirm—who appeared to suffer the most. Television broadcasts beamed poignant images of those that could not leave, who were now forced to survive in an inhabitable city seemingly overcome with the presence of death and overtaken by depravity.

Adding to our grief and inflaming our outrage is that the Federal Government was woefully unprepared for this disaster. As the world watched, we responded in a way that was completely unacceptable. Despite assurance by FEMA Director Michael Brown that his organization was taking steps to ensure that disaster teams could respond within 12 hours and that disaster relief supplies could be delivered anywhere in the country in 24 hours, stranded residents in New Orleans reportedly went 4 days without deliveries of food and water. Inaction, mismanagement, and the inability to put the appropriate personnel and resources in the right place at the right time exacerbated an already grave natural disaster.

The scope of the tragedy we have seen in the Gulf Coast was not only anticipated but could have been minimized if the appropriate steps were taken. Multiple studies had identified the potentially devastating effects of a hurricane striking New Orleans. The Army Corps of Engineers requested funds for critical reinforcements to the levees in New Orleans but those calls have been unanswered. Further, as has been widely reported, since its transfer to the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA has been significantly diminished and undervalued.

However, after these sorrowful pictures that now seem so permanently seared on our conscience begin to fade, after the appropriate investigations occur on what went so tragically wrong, and after the devastated areas start to rebuild, we must take more from Hurricane Katrina than how to better plan, prepare, and respond for a potential natural disaster. We must finally begin to recognize and remember that the Federal Government can help Americans live better lives. For too long now, the Federal Government has catered to those who can well take care of themselves. It's about time we started to care and demonstrate compassion for those being left behind not just in New Orleans but throughout America.

RELATING TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, as our nation continues to deliver relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, we pause to remember the victims of an earlier American tragedy on the fourth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

While grasping to comprehend the enormity of the natural disaster that has befallen the Gulf Coast region, Americans to this day still struggle to make sense of the terrorists' ruthlessness, their hatred of our core values of liberty, democracy and equality, as well as their capacity for the horrific atrocities they carried out against innocent men, women and children 4 years ago today.

As we remember our loss on September 11th, we are also reminded of the strength of the human spirit when other crises arrived. Since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, we have witnessed a world united in action and sharing a common goal of helping those most in need in the aftermath of tragedy, including the tsunami in Southern Asia, the terrorist attacks in Spain and England, and now in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Our Nation continues to heal from September 11, 2001, but with firm resolve, we have moved forward to rebuild—never bowing to terrorist demands or allowing an unwelcome sense of vulnerability to permeate our lives. With even greater respect and admiration for our first responders, medical professionals and other heroes across our Nation, we honor their valor and sacrifices as they ease mankind's suffering and elevate humanity to new heights.

On this day, Mr. Speaker, we will always remember and honor the Americans lost at the hands of terrorist attackers. This year, once again, we extend our deepest sympathies to their families, friends, and loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, I was surveying damage from Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and failed to cast recorded votes on rollcall votes 454 and 455. Had I cast my votes, I would have voted "yes" on both.

Last week, I traveled to Louisiana with a constituent who is the president and founder of Heart to Heart International, Dr. Gary Morsch. Heart to Heart International, a Kansas-based humanitarian organization that serves the needs of the poor and provides aid to those most affected by natural disasters, has established a forward distribution center in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, to distribute aid to the refugees of Hurricane Katrina. A team organized by Heart to Heart International traveled to this forward distribution site to deliver

aid, determine assignments for possible future teams, and prepare to receive future shipments to deliver to agencies sheltering refugees.

I deeply appreciate the work of private relief organizations like Heart to Heart International that play a critical role in the public-private response to natural disasters. While private organizations do their part for disaster relief, government at every level needs to work together to plan for inevitable natural disasters and coordinate relief efforts. I will continue working within Congress to ensure that the federal government's response to future disasters, whether natural or man-made, is as efficient and timely as possible.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF NATION TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the tragedy that has resulted from Hurricane Katrina. Like our colleagues and so many Americans, I watched with sadness as this massive storm approached the coast and threatened to wreak unprecedented destruction on anything that stood in its path.

Over the hours that followed, we learned that entire communities along the Gulf of Mexico coast had literally been devastated, homes and businesses had been destroyed, churches and schools were in ruins, and floodwaters continued to rise in New Orleans. While the physical damage was restricted to the Gulf Coast region itself, we all recognized immediately that Hurricane Katrina was a national catastrophe that would touch millions and have long-term effects on us all.

The people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama need strong leadership in Washington right now. The Federal Government can and will stand strong to do all we can until the flood waters recede, homes are rebuilt, families and communities are reunited and normalcy returns. However, it will require the time and efforts of us all.

The American people have responded with overwhelming generosity. Citizens from Tennessee and elsewhere across the country have donated their time, goods and money to help in every possible way with the relief effort. Many communities in our State have shown again how we earned our nickname "The Volunteer State," and I know many other communities have also proven their kindness, welcoming with open arms those who have literally lost everything and been forced from their homes. There are countless stories of families, churches and schools opening their doors and taking in these newly found homeless. I am proud of my fellow Tennesseans and our fellow Americans in showing such support for those who need help.

Our Nation continues to face unprecedented threats on physical, emotional and economic fronts, and we will fight those battles together. Federal, State and local officials, private industry and charitable organizations must work together to fight these battles and start the process of rebuilding our communities, and I

hope our Nation will be stronger. Mr. Speaker, we have watched a terrible disaster unfold, but I am certain Americans will stand together and meet these challenges with the American spirit that has helped us through so many tough times before.

ACE AND TJ RALLY THEIR LISTENERS

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, America is heartbroken by the loss of life and property Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama have experienced due to Hurricane Katrina. It is the largest natural disaster in the history of our country. As the people in the effected areas are suffering and have called for help, citizens across the country have heard their cries and have responded.

All across America citizens are organizing drives to help people in the Gulf States. They are giving money, gathering supplies, and working to make sure people displaced from these areas find shelter. I would like to recognize one such effort in my hometown of Charlotte, NC.

Charlotte has 2 very popular radio disc jockey's—Ace and TJ. They are two of Louisiana's favorite sons, and in the wake of disaster that has effected their home State, and areas around it, they organized one of the Nation's fastest and largest private responses to the disaster in the Gulf.

Ace and TJ decided they would do a donation drive for victims of Hurricane Katrina, asked their listeners to "give to the Gulf." They asked listeners to donate money and supplies such as water, canned goods, generators, diapers, and baby wipes for the victims. Their radio listener family responded to their call in large numbers.

Ace, TJ, Madden, Yankee Pete, Ryan, and the local radio station Kiss 95.1 FM began their donation drive on Monday, August 29, 2005, at noon. The response was so overwhelming that they continued to air their efforts until midnight that night.

Ace and TJ, over local 400 volunteers, and local businesses all pulled together and worked for more than 4 straight days for hurricane victims. They took in the supplies and loaded them onto tractor trailer trucks. Local restaurants even chipped in by contributing food for the volunteers, and businesses contributed supplies and expertise on how to properly load the supplies. The whole Charlotte community pulled together for this effort.

I would also like to point out that their listeners in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Beckley and Bluefield, West Virginia, and Birmingham, Alabama, also contributed money and supplies to their effort.

When Ace and TJ first started this drive they thought they would try to load up one tractor trailer, and get about \$50,000 to contribute to hurricane victims. I am happy to say that Ace and TJ's radio listeners went above and beyond their first estimates. The listeners poured our their hearts and have contributed almost \$500,000, and filled up 26 18-wheeler tractor trailers trucks full of supplies.

Then, if getting the money and supplies weren't enough, they personally ensured that

the supplies were driven down to Cenla, Louisiana, so they could be used immediately by the evacuees from the Gulf area.

Mr. Speaker, we should not forget the efforts of people like Ace and TJ and their volunteers, because in times like these we need to recognize them to remind us of what it is to love thy neighbor. I am proud of the compassion and generosity of the people I represent in the Charlotte area. I am also very proud and grateful to Ace and TJ and their radio team for pulling the community together and giving to those in need. And as we continue to help those in need, let us not forget the people who are really helping our fellow citizens. It is not the governments, it is the good people across our country like Ace and TJ.

ANNIVERSARY OF AWB

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mrs. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, Congress allowed the Federal ban on assault weapons to expire without a floor vote.

The ban was allowed to die despite the support of two-thirds of the American people and the support of nearly every police organization in the country.

And although he did nothing to help, President Bush even said he supported the ban.

But Congress refused to listen to common sense and allowed weapons such as AK-47s and TEC-9s to be available throughout the United States.

Since then, the NRA and its allies in Congress have pursued a radical agenda to weaken our gun laws.

In July, the other body passed legislation giving the gun industry unprecedented protections from negligence lawsuits.

This legislation will see that negligence goes unpunished. It will also give the industry no incentive to pursue safety innovations for their products.

Had these protections been in place for the auto industry 40 years ago, cars wouldn't have seat belts, air bags, antilock brakes.

The NRA says this law will prevent frivolous lawsuits against the gun industry, but it is a problem that doesn't exist.

Over the past 10 years, over 10 million lawsuits have been filed in the U.S. Only 57 have involved the gun industry. And only 12 of those have been ruled frivolous by judges.

The current system works, frivolous lawsuits against the gun industry are not coming to trial.

Also, the NRA has begun a lobbying campaign to convince state legislatures to overturn workplace gun bans.

Whether it is at a daycare center, school, church, or hazardous materials plant, the NRA wants employees to come to work armed. Again, it defies common sense.

Guns are already the third greatest hazard in the workforce and 17 Americans die on the job because of guns each week.

Instead of dismissing irresponsible business practices and allowing guns in daycare centers, Congress should focus on legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists.