

met Ryan Brandt Young. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

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STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, 2005, I submitted the following statement during a hearing in the Committee on Government Reform entitled, "Back to the Drawing Board: A First Look at Lessons Learned from Katrina":

Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Davis, for agreeing last week to hold hearings in this Committee on what went wrong with the government response to Hurricane Katrina. This Committee is the most important venue within the House of Representatives for federal government oversight and I am grateful for your leadership. Interestingly, this first hearing will not focus on Hurricane Katrina and the disaster in New Orleans and the surrounding area, but will focus on 3 other cities that are vulnerable to a natural disaster or terrorist attack: Los Angeles, Miami and Washington, D.C. Further, the hearing is intended to examine the local response to crisis, rather than the federal response, to determine how prepared we are to handle another disaster.

Local, state and federal government all play key roles in handling a disaster and disaster relief, but let's face it: the federal government has the largest resources and should have the greatest ability to deal with a serious disaster in our nation. The first lesson we have learned from Katrina is that this proved not to be the case. The federal government was slow to act and the disaster was far too great for city and state government to handle alone.

The second lesson we have learned from Katrina is that we have not learned the lesson from the Iraq war regarding Halliburton. Halliburton overcharged the government at the taxpayer's expense during the Iraq war. Days after Katrina struck, Halliburton was one of the earliest companies awarded no-bid contracts, to repair 3 different Navy facilities in Mississippi. The flawed contracting procedures of the Iraq war are rearing their ugly head in the recovery of Hurricane Katrina. Congress has already appropriated \$62 billion so far and more is surely to come. Yet the contracts awarded have been cost-plus and no bid contracts, lacking oversight and transparency.

There is an infinite number of issues on the federal level that seriously need to be explored. Why aren't more steps being taken to hire local displaced workers to rebuild their towns and cities? How has the merger of FEMA into the Department of Homeland Security played a role in FEMA's ability as an agency? Why didn't FEMA's Hurricane Pam study—contracted out to IEA to investigate what would happen if a hurricane hit the gulf coast—better prepare the federal response to the Katrina disaster?

As Chairman Davis indicated, however, we'll get into more of these federal issues at future hearings.

A very important local issue that should be considered today is the morality of establishing a mandatory evacuation when there are people who lack the ability to evacuate. We saw this in New Orleans with Hurricane

Katrina. Everyone was forced to evacuate, but not everyone could. There were people in hospitals and nursing homes and people too poor and without cars that were simply left behind. How were these people supposed to leave? How might there have been better emergency plans in place to facilitate the evacuation of these citizens? In one reported story, a dead body was left to decay for over 2 weeks in the Algiers neighborhood of New Orleans, despite swarms of local police, Louisiana state troopers and the Army. Residents believed that law enforcement officials left the body there purposely to encourage the residents to evacuate. If their belief is true, such a practice is truly shameful and must be addressed.

Another issue related to local government observed in New Orleans with the enforced racism that occurred through the application of two standards of justice by law enforcement officials. Local law enforcement reportedly allowed white armed vigilantes to ride throughout the city but would not allow the same for black residents. According to Malik Rahim, a community organizer who recently ran for city council in New Orleans. "If a white person was taking something, he was taking food for his family. But if a black was taking something, he was looting." Rahim further described how the white vigilantes were shooting blacks in his neighborhood under the guise that they were protecting his neighborhood, and were even bragging about it. He said he never before seen New Orleans come so close to breaking into a race riot.

If a race riot had broken out in New Orleans the crisis situation there would have become far more disastrous. How can local governments ensure that one standard of justice is applied equally in times of disaster?

I hope this hearing will address the many concerns raised and what changes are necessary in the local planning for disasters in other large cities. Moreover, I look forward to the series of hearings that this Committee intends to hold that will specifically look at the federal response to Hurricane Katrina.

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IN LASTING MEMORY OF MAYOR PAUL B. CHOATE

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of the life and legacy of Mayor Paul B. Choate, who passed away at the age of 71 on August 5, 2005. Mayor Choate was born on May 28, 1934 in Lonoke, Arkansas.

Mayor Choate graduated in 1957 from the State Teacher's College and taught school in Paris, Arkansas. He was also a retired biologist with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. In 1967, Mayor Choate moved to Hempstead County and distinguished himself as the first juvenile judge and helped to establish Medical Park Hospital in Hope where he served as a Hempstead County Memorial Hospital Board member.

Mayor Choate was an economic ambassador for the small town of Blevins. As Mayor, he updated the city's sewer system, helped to bring industry to the city, and acquired one of only four generators obtainable from the state for Blevins during the horrific ice storm of 2000 that paralyzed much of Arkansas.

Perhaps what drove Mayor Choate the most was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. In

Blevins, he was a founding minister of the World of Faith Church and a pastor at the Marlbrook Baptist Church for 7 years.

Mayor Choate truly led an exemplary life and will forever be remembered for his dedication to his family, his community, and the church. My deepest sympathies go out to his wife, Pamela D. Young Choate, their four sons, David, Roy, Timothy, and Andrew, his brothers, William King and Lee King, his sister, Julia, his eight grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

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TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOHN W. HOLLY

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career and contributions of Major General John W. Holly. General Holly is retiring from his position as Deputy Director of the Missile Defense Agency, the Program Executive Officer for Ballistic Missile Defense System, and the Director of the Joint National Integration Center.

Prior to assuming his current position, General Holly was the Program Director of the Missile Defense Agency's Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Joint Program Office.

General Holly was an integral part in the development, construction, initial testing, and deployment of the nation's GMD system, which gives our nation new and advanced capabilities to defend itself against long-range ballistic missile attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank General Holly for his work developing our nation's defense capabilities against incoming missile threats. I strongly believe that his efforts have significantly contributed to the defense of our nation.

During General Holly's time in Huntsville, I enjoyed working with him as he led the development of the Ground-Based Missile Defense system. I know his leadership and dedication will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of everyone in North Alabama, I rise to express my gratitude to Major General John W. Holly for his many years of service in our nation's military.

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IN HONOR OF RAY STEVENS, PRESIDENT OF THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Ray Stevens, the outgoing President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA). During his tenure, Ray has served with distinction in a variety of positions within Delaware's Fire Service.

Originally joining the Selbyville, Delaware Volunteer Fire Company in July of 1967, Ray remains an active member to this day. From 1968 through 1971, Ray served as the 1st and

2nd Assistant Chief of the Selbyville Delaware Volunteer Fire Company. In 1972, he served as the Chief of the Selbyville Fire Company, a post he would hold again from 1996–1997.

In his 38 years, Ray has served the Selbyville Fire Company in a variety of other positions, including work as Assistant Treasurer, a 32-year stint as an Engineer, and his current work as both a human resources officer and a safety officer. After serving as President of the Selbyville Fire Company, Ray moved to the Sussex County Volunteer Firemen's Association, where he would serve as President from 1999–2000.

As you know, firefighters are of critical importance to our society. In order to be as effective as possible, they require dedicated and organized supporters. Over the past year, Ray has exemplified these qualities and effectively led the DVFA. For his hard work, both the State of Delaware and the United States of America are indebted to him.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Mr. Stevens on his exceptional career of service and dedication. DVFA 1st Vice-President and incoming President Ken Pyle and 2nd Vice-President Alan Robinson join me in congratulating Ray on his service as President of the DVFA.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
FATHER JOHN C. DALTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH  
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Father John C. Dalton, Pastor Emeritus of Holy Name Church of Cleveland, Ohio, whose love, kindness and faithful service to the people of Cleveland will be remembered always.

Pastor Dalton entered St. Mary's Seminary in 1943 and was ordained into the priesthood in 1948. For sixty-five years, Pastor Dalton served the people of our community, young and old. He baptized more than 2,000 parishioners and united 545 couples in marriage. At Holy Name parish, Pastor Dalton tended to the spiritual and humanitarian needs of the parishioners, and extended his assistance out into the community.

Pastor Dalton's vision and focus on uplifting his community manifested itself along Broadway Avenue and beyond, where he led efforts to improve Holy Name church and school, and even helped out in the construction of new ball fields. His compassion, patience and love for others reflected throughout his life of service, from tenure as teacher, to his position as Associate Director of Services for the Deaf; to his neighborhood activism and work as a counselor within self-help groups. Even following his retirement, Pastor Dalton continued his life-long mission of regular visits to hospitals and the homebound, offering comfort and support to our most vulnerable citizens.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in tribute and remembrance of Father John C. Dalton, Pastor Emeritus of Holy Name Parish of Cleveland. Pastor Dalton's steadfast service to others, framed by compassion, understanding, and a warm smile, offered healing, hope and faith to all of us. I extend my deepest condolences to the family of Pastor Dalton,

to the parishioners of Holy Name Church, and to the entire Broadway Avenue community. Pastor Dalton will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him well, yet his light and love will always serve as a guiding force throughout our community and will radiate forever along Broadway Avenue and far beyond.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF ROBERT  
COMPTON

HON. MIKE ROSS  
OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert "Bob" Compton of El Dorado, Arkansas. Mr. Compton passed away on Saturday, August 6th at the age of 76.

A graduate of Hendrix College in 1949 and the University of Arkansas Law School in 1952, Mr. Compton was an agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and in 1970 ran for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Arkansas. Additionally, Mr. Compton was a Special Associate Justice and Special Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court and served as Special Chairman of the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

A member of the Arkansas Bar Association and President from 1975–1976, Mr. Compton distinguished himself among his colleagues as an outstanding attorney. This is further evidenced by his receipt of the Arkansas Outstanding Lawyer Award in 1988, a classroom dedicated in his name at the University of Arkansas School of Law in May 2004, and the Arkansas Bar Foundation Award for Excellence in June 2004.

Mr. Compton was a respected attorney and was dedicated to his family, community and state. Bob was a good friend who inspired me through his wise counsel, deeds and actions, just as he has so many others over the years. Bob leaves the City of El Dorado and the State of Arkansas a better place because of his many contributions.

Bob Compton truly led an exemplary life and developed a profound respect for our legal system. My deepest sympathies go out to his wife, Margaret Compton, their sons, Robert C. Compton, Jr. and Walter Knox Compton, their daughter, Cathleen Compton, and their grandchildren, Maggie, Whitley, Jackson, and Tyler.

TRIBUTE TO AMY SURGINER  
LIGON NORTHRUP

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Amy Surginer Ligon Northrop on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Born September 28, 1905 in Dixiana, South Carolina, Mrs. Northrop became a successful entrepreneur, owning several businesses, including a thriving beauty shop and a laundromat in Columbia, South Carolina.

Mrs. Northrop, a pioneer among African American businesswomen, attended grade

school in Dixiana and St. Ann Episcopal School in Cayce, South Carolina. She received her bachelor's degree from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, where she later established a scholarship named after her and her late husband, John. With a boundless thirst for knowledge, she furthered her education at Tennessee State University, South Carolina State University, Almanella School of Beauty Culture, and the Manhattan Trade School in New York.

Broadening her knowledge of life and mankind through travel, Mrs. Northrop was at various times, a resident of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. With her foresight and vision, she opened a beauty shop in Brooklyn, New York. She relocated to South Carolina in 1935 and opened Amy's Beauty Shop. In 1936, she became a member of the South Carolina State Cosmetology Association and the first clinic for the association was held at her business. When the Columbia Citywide Cosmetology Association was organized in 1938, Mrs. Northrop became one of the charter members.

In 1941, she successfully negotiated affiliation with the National Beauty Culturists League for the Columbia association. She became a state organizer at a national beauticians' convention and organized beauticians throughout the State. Her interest in cosmetology led to extensive travel throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Mrs. Northrop has received numerous certificates and awards for her outstanding contributions to the field of cosmetology. In 1945, she received the great honor of being the first African American state inspector of beauty shops in South Carolina. A tireless civic leader, Mrs. Northrop founded Gamma Epsilon, a chapter of the Alpha Chi Pi Mega Sorority, whose first members were beauticians from Charleston, Sumter, Kingstree, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

As an entrepreneur, she was successful in securing the purchase of property on Clark Street in Columbia as a headquarters for the city's beauticians' association. She later helped to secure the land on Fontaine Road where the State Cosmetology Headquarters, the Margarette H. Miller Cosmetology Center, now stands.

Mrs. Northrop is a life member of Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dixiana, South Carolina, where she organized the Youth Church, the Pull Together Club, the National Council of Negro Women, and the NAACP. In 1997, she relocated to the Washington, DC area to live with her niece and nephew, Rose and Edgar Crook, and worships with them at Shiloh Baptist Church. She continues to maintain strong ties to South Carolina, however, and visits as often as she can.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in saluting Mrs. Amy Surginer Ligon, one of South Carolina's and America's finest citizens, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.